■ ENTERTAINMENT / A24

Dollywood: Show biz people write their epitaphs

■ BUSINESS / B1

Gov't wants to further ease VAT impact

■ ACROSS / A13

GMA orders relocation of Diwalwal families

■ WORLD / A8

Kashmiri group owns Delhi bombings

Women prone to demonic possession, says exorcist

KAPAL! KAYA MAHIRAP TABLAN SI JUAN!

By Christian Esguerra

IS YOUR GIRLFRIEND looking a little peaked? Are her eyes red? Can she do a 360-degree head turn, accompanied by flying green vomit?

WOMEN/ A14

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Arroyo hacienda finds way out of land reform

By Blanche S. Rivera and Philip C. Tubeza

THE LANDHOLDINGS OF FIRST GENTLEMAN Jose Miguel Arroyo on Negros Island may be spared from coverage of the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) to give way to an ethanol plant.

Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio T. Arroyo

ARROYO/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Tuesday, November 1, 2005 ★★ 3 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 326 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Boo! VAT jacks up prices

Consumers brace for new tax whammy

By Abigail L. Ho and Christian V. Esguerra

BRACE FOR HARDER times. The 10-percent expanded value-added tax takes effect today, All Saints' Day.

Expect higher fuel prices, higher power rates, higher fares for air and sea transport, and higher medical and legal fees.

Petroleum products, electricity, domestic air and sea transport, and medical and legal services were previously exempt from the VAT, which is the centerpiece of President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign to control the budget deficit.

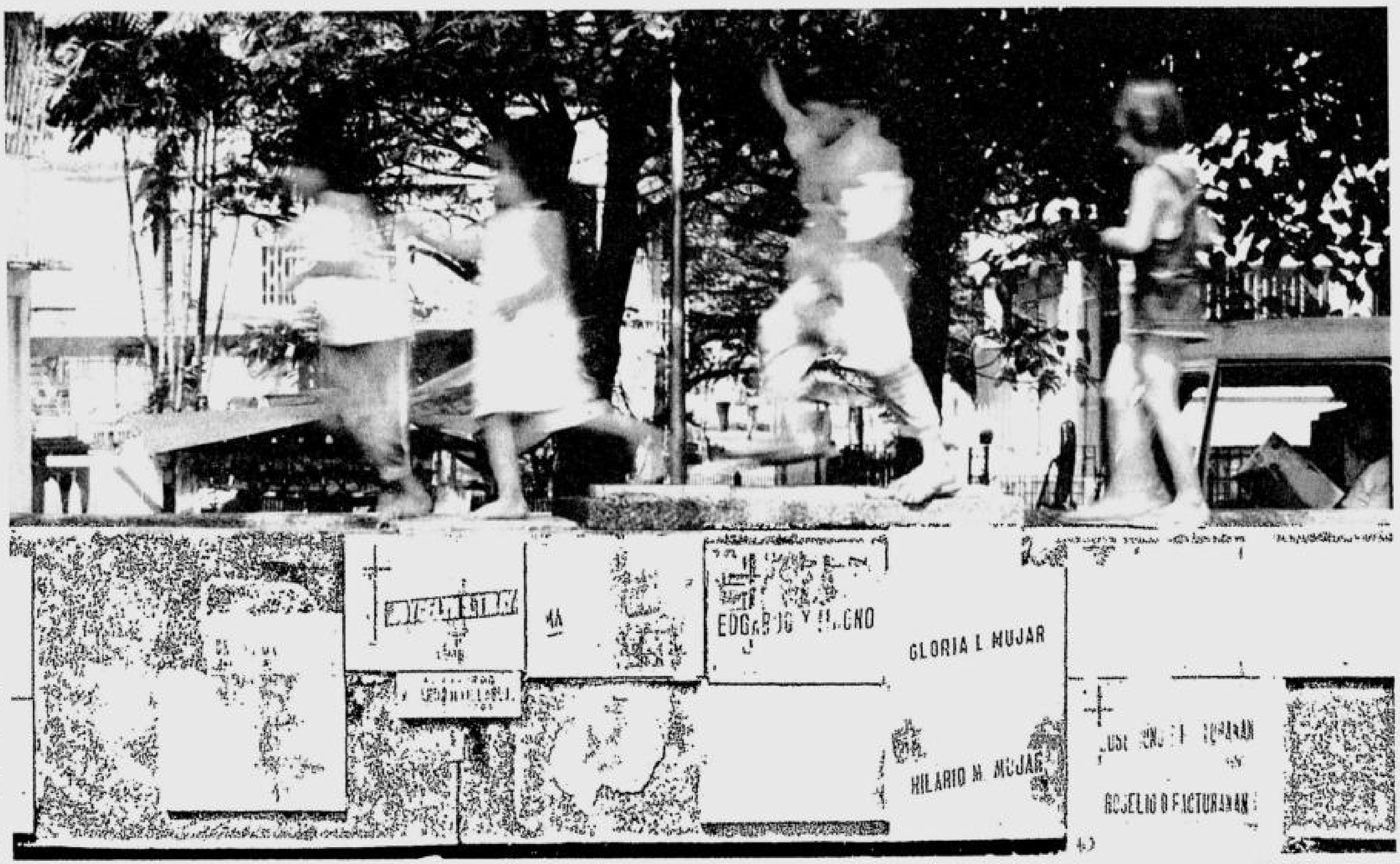
The VAT law allows the President to raise the tax rate to 12 percent by Jan. 1 next year.

Beginning at 12:01 a.m. today, unleaded gasoline will retail at an average of P38.42 a liter, regular gasoline at P36.37 a liter, diesel at P33.17 a liter, and kerosene at P34.91 a liter, according to initial computations by the Department of Energy.

Cooking gas prices should range between P486.17 and P492.77 per 11-kilogram cylinder.

Gasoline, diesel and kerosene would have cost more had oil firms not cut prices today by 60 centavos a liter. The price of cooking gas was cut by P1 a kilogram.

BOO! VAT/ A6



THE MANILA North Cemetery comes to life with people visiting their departed loved ones on the eve of All Saints' Day. Children frolic on top of tombs in Metro Manila's most populous necropolis.

REM ZAMORA

Cemeteries are a time capsule of RP history, culture

By Jerome Aning

IN LIFE, THEY HELPED SHAPE the course of Philippine politics and culture. In death, their graves serve as guideposts to history.

Statesmen, politicians, military leaders, men and women of arts and letters, pioneers, martyrs and heroes come alive in the narratives of tour guide Carlos Celdran.

Once a year, Celdran takes local and foreign tourists to the Manila North, Chinese and La Loma Catholic cemeteries where the remains of some of the most outstanding Filipinos are interred. The three cemeteries are contiguous and combine to become Metro Manila's biggest and most populous necropolis.

The final resting places of these illustrious Filipinos range from the ostentatiously elaborate to the self-effacing. Some reveal the architectural design or materials of a lost era.

Amid crosses and statues of Madonnas, saints and angels, Celdran recounts anecdotes about the dead while standing in front of their graves.

The greatest concentration of historical figures are at the Manila North and La Loma cemeteries. Three Presidents—Sergio Osmeña, Manuel Roxas and Ramon Magsaysay—are buried there.

The cemeteries also host national politicians, like Claro M. Recto, Quintin Paredes, Pablo Ocampo and Benito Legarda, as

CEMETERIES / A4

Celebrities recall close encounters with nature spirits

SPECIAL REPORT

By Jerry E. Esplanada

(First of two parts)

HUMAN ENCOUNTERS WITH nature spirits have become more frequent in the last 10 years, according to Jaime Licauco, INQUIRER columnist and the country's foremost authority on inner mind development, paranormal phenomena and mysticism.

In his best-selling book, "Dwarves and Other Nature Spirits," Licauco featured the close calls of celebrities with elementals. Some of them are controversial screen siren Rosanna Roces, INQUIRER Lifestyle columnist Cory Quirino, child star BJ "Tolits" Forbes, ex-Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and movie review board chair Manuel Morato, Rex Publishing Corp. president Dominador Buhain, broadcast journalist Rey Sibayan, entertainment writer Rey Pumaloy and the late Pasay City Mayor Pablo Cuneta.

They all had personally encountered elementals or nature spirits. Licauco noted there was "no single pattern" to their encounters.

Take the case of Roces, known for her sexy film roles and for being fearlessly outspoken. She recalled that when she was 9 years old, "old folks told me I was always seen with an old woman, [supposedly] my spirit guide. But

CELEBRITIES / A4

She sensed the presence of a "kapre" while filming a segment on elves on Talim Island.

QUIRINO

"I saw something fly like a bird but its eyes were red."

FORBES

"Having dwarves in the house means good luck."

ROCES

He found a petrified wooden image in his family's sawmill, "the largest psychic manifestation."

MORATO

Tell-tale signs of the 'unseen'

HERE ARE THE INDICATIONS of elementals and other "unseen companions" in a household, according to Jaime Licauco, author of "Dwarves and Other Nature Spirits":

- Personal objects disappear only to be found later in the same place or elsewhere. But sometimes the lost items are never returned.
- Small footprints may appear on the floor, on the walls or elsewhere in the house or building.
- Cookies or sweets left on the table suddenly become smaller like they had been eaten but nobody's there.
- Scent of earth on a hot day, as if it rained. The smell

TELL-TALE/ A4

Benguet's Ibaloi, Kankanaey sleep with the dead

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE dead do not actually die. Their bodies may be gone but their spirits live on and watch us every day.

This belief, according to sociologist Isikias Picpican, explains why indigenous communities of Benguet, like the Ibaloi and Kankanaey, still bury their dead under their houses, in their backyards or somewhere else on their properties.

To these tribes, the dead must be buried close to home and interred in an elaborate manner to give them a peaceful resting place, said Picpican, who studies Igorot culture.

"If the dead had not been rested properly according to custom, bad luck may fall on the family," he said.

Board Member Sario Copas, a Kankanaey from Buguias town and descendant of the famous mummy Apo Anno, said prayers for good tidings would go unanswered if the dead were buried elsewhere, such as in a cemetery.

"The spirits of the dead are our passage to Kabunian (God)," he said. "They mediate our prayers so they will be heard and granted."

Indeed, amid crowded cemeteries and expensive memorial parks, Igorot families in Benguet and Baguio City usually remember their dead relatives in their own houses every Nov. 1.

Kato Ambo, a war veteran who died at the age of 83 on March 16, 2005, was buried in his backyard at Sitio Toyong in Barangay Pico.

At the "Paltingan Corral" in Barangay Wangal stands an old house amid the forest and an old horse trail.

Five horses serve as sentinels at the property where the remains of 29 family members of the Feliciano Hidalgo and Maria

BENGUET'S/ A6

Fil-Am chef to debut with royal dinner

WASHINGTON—THE TEMperature is rising in Cristeta Comerford's basement kitchen.

After two months on the job and plenty of meals served behind the scenes, the first woman White House chef—an alumna of the University of the Philippines—makes her official culinary debut in a very public way Wednesday: Preparing lunch and three dinner courses for Britain's Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall.

It's the royal couple's first visit to the United States since they tied the knot in April.

But if pleasing the royal couple isn't pressure enough, next on Comerford's plate is the December holiday season. That's when US President George W. Bush and his wife Laura throw open the White House doors to some 9,500 guests who file through 25 parties in search of some of the finest food and drink in town.

Other cooks may wilt like spinach under the stress, but Comerford is no stranger to the heat of the White House

FIL-AM/ A14

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/10/31/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

'Infiltration of PSG not unusual'

By TJ Burgonio
and Christine O. Avendaño

IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR rebels in the military to infiltrate a President's security detail before mounting a coup d'etat, retired Navy Commodore Rex Robles said yesterday.

"She (President Macapagal-Arroyo) can't be too sure of the loyalty of the PSG (Presidential Security Group). If there is any coup rumor, most probably the PSG is involved," Robles said in a phone interview.

Robles, a former member of the rightist Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM) military group, said the first thing rebels would do after "organizing" themselves is to recruit members.

"In every coup, you have to have people inside. That's basic," he said, recalling that RAM managed to recruit two PSG members for a coup in 1986, but strongman Ferdinand Marcos got wind of it.

"That's one of the problems of a President whose crown rests uneasily on his head," he said.

For his part, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's disclosure that members of the PSG were being recruited by retired officers of the group spoke volumes about the "sorry state of affairs" [in the country].

"This is regrettable. Is this an indication of the kind of trust the President can expect not only from the public but also from different sectors? This is a sorry state of affairs," Biazon said in an interview.

Gonzalez had said on Sunday the recruitment was part of moves "to wean away" the military from the chain of command.

His statement came on the heels of the revelation of a US Embassy report that said Ms Arroyo had ordered the presidential guards around her disarmed to ensure her safety at the height of the "Hello Garci" tape controversy.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson said there were "volunteers as well as recruits" from the military, including the PSG, in the move to oust President Arroyo.

"I'm not confirming (what Gonzalez said). I only said I wouldn't be surprised if the PSG recruitment was indeed taking place. But as far as the AFP (is concerned), I received reports not only of recruitment but actual volunteers for a move to oust GMA. Whether or not an actual toppling will take place, when and how, I do not know," said Lacson, a former national police chief, in a separate interview.

Malacañang, however, saw no reason to doubt the loyalty of the PSG. Palace officials yesterday said they were certain the PSG would remain true to the President and the Constitution.

"No such attempts to drag the PSG and the AFP into the political arena will ever succeed, as they are steadfastly loyal to the Commander-in-Chief, the chain of command and the Constitution," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

Reacting to Gonzalez's revelation, Bunye said: "The justice secretary may have his own sources but as far as we are concerned, there is no reason to doubt the loyalty of the President's guards as they have proven many times over their professionalism and devotion to duty."

In radio interviews yesterday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said he did not have direct information about what Gonzalez had revealed.

Ermita said he recently talked to PSG chief Col. Delfin Bangit who told him nothing unusual was going on at the PSG.

"Our officers and soldiers are very professional," he said.

Armed Forces of the Philippines Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Samuel Bagasin yesterday also dismissed the recruitment report.

"I have not heard of that. I only read about it in the papers. We are continuously monitoring our troops; as of now there is no recruitment," Bagasin said in a phone interview. *With Juliet Labog-Javellana and Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

NEWSBRIEFS

DFA accused of coverup

CAVITE Rep. Gilbert Remulla yesterday accused Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo of barring the Department of Foreign Affairs from inquiring into the whereabouts of the elusive former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. At a press conference in Quezon City, Remulla asked, "Hello? DFA? Where is Garci? Is he still alive?" Remulla headed the House joint committee which investigated the wiretapped conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Garcillano purportedly to fix balloting in the 2004 presidential election.

Michael Lim Ubac

Not true, says DFA

FOREIGN Affairs Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin denied Rep. Gilbert Remulla's allegation, saying he himself "signed and faxed" the letters directing the Philippine embassies in Brasilia and Buenos Aires to verify reported sightings of Virgilio Garcillano in their host countries. "It's not true," Ebdalin said in a phone interview. "I know because I was the one who signed the communications last month." Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo is in Washington DC and could not be reached for comment.

Voll Contreras

AFP disputes Palace report

THE MILITARY yesterday belied Malacañang's claim that two Jemaah Islamiyah terrorists, including the alleged mastermind of the 2002 Bali bombing, are in Metro Manila. "We have no information on that. That still has to be verified," said Capt. Ramon Zagala, spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines National Capital Region Command. A senior intelligence official also belied Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita's claim that Indonesians Omar Patek and Dolmatin, the alleged brains of the Bali bomb attack, have been monitored to be in the capital.

Dona Pazzibugan

Chief, 5 other cops killed

COTABATO CITY—Gunmen killed a town police chief and five of his men in an ambush yesterday in Barangay Mabel, Malabang, Lanao del Sur. The police chief, SPO4 Corias Tambugao of the Tuburan police command, and his men were in a police car traveling from Camp SK Pendatun to Tuburan when they were attacked by at least 10 gunmen, according to Chief Supt. Akmad Mamalinta of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Mamalinta said the ambush may have been sparked by a family feud as Tambugao was allegedly involved in the killing recently of a relative of one of the gunmen.

Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Rules for holiday pay

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment yesterday reminded employers of the rules for paying workers who report for duty on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 – two special non-working days. DOLE Undersecretary for Workers' Welfare Luzviminda Padilla said those who go to work on the two days are entitled to 30 percent more of their daily rate. If they work overtime, they get an additional 30 percent of their hourly rate. If the employee's day-off falls on Oct. 31 or Nov. 1 and he reports to work, he is entitled to receive 50 percent more of his daily rate plus another 30 percent of his hourly rate if he works overtime, Padilla said. If the employee does not go to work on either day, the labor official said, the "no-work, no-pay" policy applies, unless there is a favorable company policy, practice or collective bargaining agreement on the matter.

Jerome Aning

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Noli fed up with bad news, specially if it's about him

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO SAYS HE is fed up with political bickering and intrigues and looks only for positive news when he picks up his newspapers every morning. He's also tired of reading and reacting to bad news, especially if it's about him.

De Castro, a former broadcaster who now is also a presidential adviser on housing and price monitoring, has been avoiding media interviews on the current political crisis.

As much as possible, he does not want to issue any comment or reaction on political issues affecting him, particularly if these involve allegations of wrongdoing, De Castro said in an interview. He added that he also avoids confrontations with other political figures.

De Castro complained that some media organizations carried "unconfirmed news" or reports with no proper attribution. He singled out an unsigned US Embassy report published last month, which pictured him as unfit to become president.

He said the country's political situation was so explosive that everyone must cooperate to keep the nation together. "*Mabuti pa ... trabaho na lang tayo ng trabaho* (It's better to just keep working)," he added.

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Celebrities recall close encounters with nature spirits

From page A1

I didn't believe them because I couldn't see her."

The actress has yet to see elementals, but she claims there is a "black" nature spirit, believed to be a dwarf with a "voice so powerful and so evil-sounding" using the storage room in her house as its gateway.

She also claims there was "one *engkanto*who used to have sex with my maids ... so they slept with pillows between their legs. *Kasi napi*-feel *nila na may nag-o*-open *ng* legs *nila* (Because they could feel someone trying to open their legs)."

Roces claims further that having dwarves in the house means good luck, saying "*Mula nang makasama ko sila ay 'di ko na problema ang pera.* Money comes to me."

Cuneta, father of "megastar" Sharon Cuneta, first saw a dwarf when he was 8 or 9 years old.

The patriarch was "gathering guavas from a neighbor's tree when he spotted a child pick up a fruit that fell to the ground. He noticed the child was very small who then just disappeared. Later, he discovered that the child was actually a dwarf that would show himself to the future mayor many times afterward. He later sought the dwarf's help without anybody knowing about it. The mayor attributed much of his success to the little creature," Licauco wrote.

Under a 'balete' tree

While working out of town on the second "Mysteries 2000" TV special, Licauco and co-host Cory Quirino shot a segment about elves under a *balete* tree.

Licauco, a leading exponent of holistic medicine, recalled that "drops of water kept falling on Cory's face and body but not a single drop on me, although we were standing right next to each other."

Quirino "sensed the presence of a big man watching us." Aling Juling, a medium from Talim Island, Laguna de Bay, later told them "a big *kapre* was guarding the tree and was trying to catch Cory's attention."

Strange things also happened during the filming of the first "Mysteries 2000" show (which featured ghosts). That time, "the audio would always go wrong at a certain portion of the film, despite the fact that it was corrected twice," Licauco said.

"An invisible hand pinched the buttocks of our executive producer at a New Manila house where we were filming the episode. Worse, most of the shots of sorcerers and healers taken in (the island-province of) Siquijor were unusable," he recalled.

Tolits again?

Forbes, a GMA 7 network talent, and his mother Annie encountered what they believed to be an *aswang* in a subdivision in Bilibiran (near Binangonan, Rizal) where they used to live.

The child star recounted the experience to entertainment writer Rey Pumaloy: The backyard of the house was still undeveloped. There were lots of wild vegetation and trees. People in the area said they would give us an award if we stayed there long. We ignored their remarks. Once, I saw something fly like a bird but it didn't look like a bird. Its eyes were red. I also saw a dark pig standing. Perhaps this was why they rented us the house so cheaply. It was haunted. We didn't stay more than a week.

Tiny pointed shoes

Pumaloy himself is no stranger to strange events. One time in his Pasig City home, "while doing my bathroom rituals, I saw the image of a man about to jump on me, as if *gugulatin ako* (like he was going to scare me). But the image disappeared."

Broadcast journalist Sibayan's first encounter with dwarves took place in his ancestral home in Bangar, La Union. He had also crossed paths with his "little friends" in his Makati City office and on mystical Mount Banahaw in Quezon.

Sibayan claimed that elves' clothes had many variations. "Those in the urban areas wear brown or gray clothes while those living on Mount Banahaw and other spiritual places wear colorful outfits. My *kapre* friend wears brown animal skin."

Buhain had his first encounter with dwarves when his wife Cynthia gave birth to Don, their first child. "Driving out of St. Luke's (Medical Center) at 6 a.m., I saw a dwarf who had the face of a 60-year-old. He looked like the dwarves we see in pictures. He wore pointed shoes which curved at the tip. I hurriedly maneuvered my car to get a closer look but he disappeared."

The lawyer also recalled that during a visit to their bookstore in Cebu, his associates "observed that my muddied footprints were immediately followed by smaller muddied footprints. There were also numerous sightings of dwarves by at least two security guards in our house in Tandang Sora, Quezon City."

Petrified image

Morato is another person who keeps an open mind about paranormal phenomena.

Sometime in 1979, he made it to the headlines when he found a petrified wooden image in his family's plywood sawmill in Tagkawayan, Quezon.

Measuring 27 inches high and "almost of human texture like a man but wobbly like a newborn child," the figure was found inside a hollow log by a sawmill worker.

"Fanaticism, folk belief, superstition—whatever it is—brought droves of common folk into the sawmill because the image was believed to be a good spirit and everyone wanted to get hold of it or at least a part of it for a talisman against evil spirits," wrote Panorama magazine's Margot S. Baterina (who joined the INQUIRER in 1993 as a deskperson).

A Swiss paranormal expert had called the image the "largest psychic manifestation" he had ever seen while at least two mediums claimed that the wooden figure was Morato's late father Tomas.

"*Ang daming tulong ang ginawa nito sa akin* (The figure helped me a lot). I've kept quiet about this all these years," said Morato. He did not elaborate.

Spirit types

Paracelsus was the first Western scientist to classify the different nature spirits.

According to the 16th-century Swiss physician, alchemist and mystic, such spirits fall under earth elementals (dwarves or gnomes), air elementals (sylphs), fire elementals (salamanders or vulcani), and water elementals (nymphs which appear in human form, probably the *engkantada* or enchanted beings in Philippine folklore and mythology).

Elementals were "created ahead of man," supposedly to guard and protect the treasures in their respective elements. They also take care of the environment and help maintain the balance of nature—they make the plants grow abundantly, keep the air clean and fill the waters with plenty of fish.

The Filipinos' belief in nature spirits has a long history. Long before the coming of the Spaniards, our ancestors already believed in creatures which they called by various names, such as *lamang lupa, tikbalang, diwata, kapre* and *tiyanak*.

Licauco observed that "the reason many Filipinos believe in the existence of nature spirits is not because they are superstitious or ignorant, but because they have had personal encounters with these creatures."

Dwarves, he claimed, were "forced to flee from their natural mountainous habitats to the lowlands to escape from being buried under volcanic ash and *lahar*. That's why many city dwellers suddenly began seeing or encountering these small creatures in their yards or even their households where before there were none.

"Unhampered by physical matter, elementals possess certain extraordinary powers that only a few sensitive humans have developed, like the power to see the future as well as the past, and the power to heal all sorts of illness in man. They also have the power to possess or take over the bodies of humans, cause illness or harm to those who have offended them. They can also physically transport a person from one place to another, even at great distances, materialize things and even read thoughts and the intentions of humans."

Befriend the dwarf

That is why, "if you have *dwende* (dwarves) in the house, be sure you don't bother or destroy their habitat or they will retaliate against you. Acknowledge they are there and talk to them as if you are talking to an ordinary human being," Licauco said.

Licauco noted that during the last 10 years, "manifestations of nature spirits and human encounters with them have become more frequent."

He strongly believes it is "part of a warning or sign that something's wrong with planet Earth. Man has been destroying this great planet for thousands of years, but only during the last century has the destruction been so massive and so rapid. Man can never win against the forces of nature. Mother Earth is a living planet and she has her own way of dealing with those who have hurt her."

Licauco said: "We can work with nature spirits and elementals instead of against them. For the most part, they mean no harm to man. It is man who has invaded their territory. They were on earth ahead of man. We are the intruders in their land and not the other way around as many uninformed people think. We have no right to drive them away from their natural habitat. We can only persuade, beg and entreat them."

"There is a way of living in harmony with them," he said. "But first we have to learn where they are, who they are and what they are."

Tell-tale signs of the 'unseen'

From page A1

varies—sometimes it is described in Tagalog as *maalimuom* or *masangsang*. If you smell cigar or cigarette smoke, especially in a yard near some big trees, but you don't see anyone smoking, a *kapre* may be present.

- A feeling that you are not alone in a room or house. This can also mean the presence of an earthbound spirit of the dead.
- If you hear your name being called or somebody calling out "psst, psst" or soft voices talking but no one is around, elementals may be present.
- If swift or sudden movements come into your peripheral vision, or if you sense white or gray mist in the house, this may indicate the presence of dwarves.
- In an open field, moving balls of fire indicate the presence of elementals. Here, they are called *santelmo*. In western countries, they are known as St. Elmo's Fire.

Licauco noted that "reports of the presence of these elemental creatures in urban areas like Metro Manila and even in upper-class subdivisions became more numerous after the big volcanic eruption of Mt. Pinatubo (in Zambales) in 1991." ***Jerry Esplanada***

Cemeteries are a time capsule of RP history, culture

From page A1

well as Manila Mayors Arsenio Lacson, Antonio Villegas, Felix Huertas and Manuel de la Fuente.

Giants of arts and letters

Giants of Filipino arts and letters are represented by painter Felix Resurrecion Hidalgo, composer Julio Nakpil, architects Arcadio Arellano and Nakpil's son Juan, and show biz personalities from the early 19th century up to "Da King of Philippine Movies" Fernando Poe Jr.

Before larger cemeteries were set up elsewhere in the metropolis, Manila North was the resting place of the Who's Who of Philippine society, the scions of political clans, eminent academicians, big businessmen, sportsmen and famous entertainers.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's mother-in-law, Lourdes Tuason-Arroyo of the influential Tuason political clan, is buried at Manila North.

Through the years, many remains of VIPs have been exhumed and reinterred in shrines in their hometowns.

Only in April this year, the remains of First Lady Aurora Aragon-Quezon joined those of her husband, President Manuel Luis Quezon, originally a "resident" of Manila North, at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City.

The following month, the remains of Potenciano Gregorio Sr., composer of Bicol's popular love song "Sarung Banggi," were reburied in his hometown of Sto. Domingo, Albay.

A mausoleum is dedicated to the veterans of the Philippine Revolution and the Filipino-American War, like Trinidad Tecson, Pio Valenzuela, Tomas Mascardo and Baldomero Aguinaldo.

The Thomasites

A graveyard honors the Thomasites, the American teachers who pioneered modern public education in the country and were behind such institutions as the Philippine Normal University in Manila and Silliman University in Dumaguete City.

Celdran related that the teachers, who arrived in 1901 and worked in major provinces, were unaccustomed to the local climate and thus died from assorted tropical diseases.

The tomb of the well-loved American Governor General, Francis Burton Harrison, is at La Loma at the boundary of Caloocan and Quezon cities. He was known for "Filipinizing" the country's bureaucracy and accelerating the Filipinos' training in democracy and responsible government.

A cherub guards the simple grave at Manila North of flyweight champion Pancho Villa, who fought in the United States in the 1920s and is considered Asia's first boxing superstar.

Simplicity is also the theme of the mausoleum of the noodles magnate Ma Mon Luk at the Chinese Cemetery.

Melancholy air

A melancholy atmosphere hovers over the plot of the La Salle Brothers who were massacred by the Japanese during the Allied Liberation of Manila in World War II.

The same is true at the mass grave of the 20 Boy Scouts who died when their plane crashed in the Indian Ocean while they were on their way to the 1963 World Jamboree in Greece.

During World War II, the Chinese Cemetery witnessed the executions of prominent citizens, like Girl Scouts organizer Josefa Llanes Escoda, Chinese Consul General Yang Guangsheng, star athlete-turned-guerrilla spy Virgilio Lobregat, and writers Rafael Roces and Manuel Arguilla.

At the La Loma Cemetery lies the tomb of convicted rapist Leo Echegaray, the first to be executed by lethal injection in 1999 when capital punishment was restored. The heated debate about the death penalty, which divided the country, is conveyed by his epitaph that contains his last words: "*Pilipino pinatay ng kapwa Pilipino.*"

The Manila North Cemetery also contains the country's only known Jewish cemetery, where each tombstone is marked by a Star of David. The cemetery also has spaces allotted for Freemasons, as well as aborted fetuses and abandoned dead infants.

While Manila North seems to have lost its image as the country's premier cemetery due to congestion and urban pollution, the Chinese Cemetery, also in Manila, has remained popular among the ethnic Chinese.

Chinese Cemetery founder

Founded in the 1850s by Lim Ong and Tan Quien Sien, also known by his Christian name, Carlos Palanca, the 54-hectare Chinese Cemetery contains graves that tell of the wealth and social status of several generations of deceased.

Mausoleums can be as high as two stories. Some resemble temples and pagodas, while others can only be described as "grave villas."

Those in the sections dubbed Millionaire's Row and Little Beverly Hills contain comforts for the living, such as air-conditioning, hot and cold water, radio and television, complete kitchen appliances, flushing toilets, chandeliers and even mailboxes.

The dead are remembered in accordance with Catholic practices mixed with Buddhist, Confucian or Taoist traditions on honoring ancestors. Visiting family members offer food and burn incense sticks and paper cuttings before sepulchers that display portraits of the deceased.

Celdran told the INQUIRER that over the years, the elements and general neglect have caused some of the tombs in the three cemeteries to deteriorate.

"Of course, there are some graves that are in bad shape, but most of these are run by the private families that own them. It's the fault of the individuals rather than the government which is why [tombs are] deteriorating," he said.

Celdran said the Chinese Cemetery was generally "still in pretty good shape" since it is run by a private organization known as the Chinese Charitable Organization.

Losing architectural flavor

He added that some Chinese tombs were fast losing their architectural flavor as many high-priced lots were being partitioned and sold to newcomers.

However, many La Loma tombs, including the St. Pancratius Church, are in disrepair because of lack of funds.

City Hall has been busy fixing up Manila North. The cemetery has a new entryway and an annex to accommodate more graves.

Many squatters have also been removed and resettled.

"Nevertheless, all three cemeteries are still worthy of a visit," Celdran said, noting the growing number of tourists, guided or unguided, going to the cemeteries.

Culture experts say cemeteries are among the last places altered by forces of economic progress and development. Like historic artifacts, cemeteries tell what life was like in the past and how it continues to evolve.

They are, in a way, a time capsule of Philippine history and culture.

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PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 28, s-2005

TO : ACCREDITED HOSPITALS AND ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Change of Hospital Name

Pursuant to Section 55 b of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the National Health Insurance Act (RA 7875) as amended by RA 9241, all hospitals shall comply at all times with the provisions of Republic Act 4226 or the Hospital Licensure Act and its prevailing Implementing Rules and Regulations as well as other applicable administrative issuances.

In this regard, Sections 16.6 and 16.7 of AO 147, s-2004 state that *"for any change in name of the hospital, the concerned facility shall notify in writing within 15 days from the date of change, the Bureau of Health Facilities and Services of the Department of Health."* The Corporation shall be furnished a copy of such notification.

The information in the corporation's database on the said hospital shall only be changed after its submission to the Corporation of the new DOH license-to-operate bearing the new name of the hospital and after the approval by the Accreditation Committee.

This circular takes effect fifteen (15) days after publication.

(Sgd.) MELINDA C. MERCADO
Officer-in-charge
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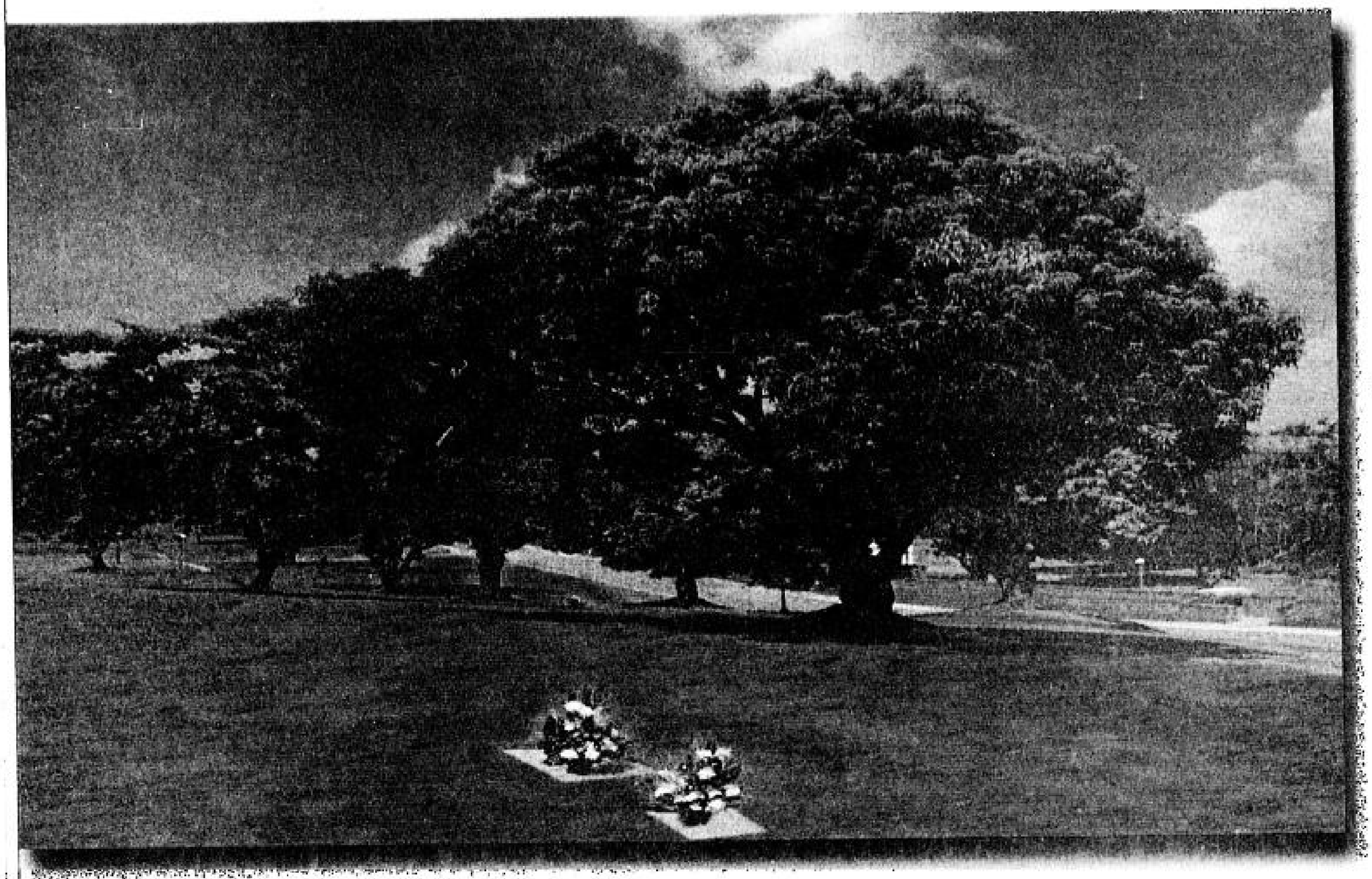

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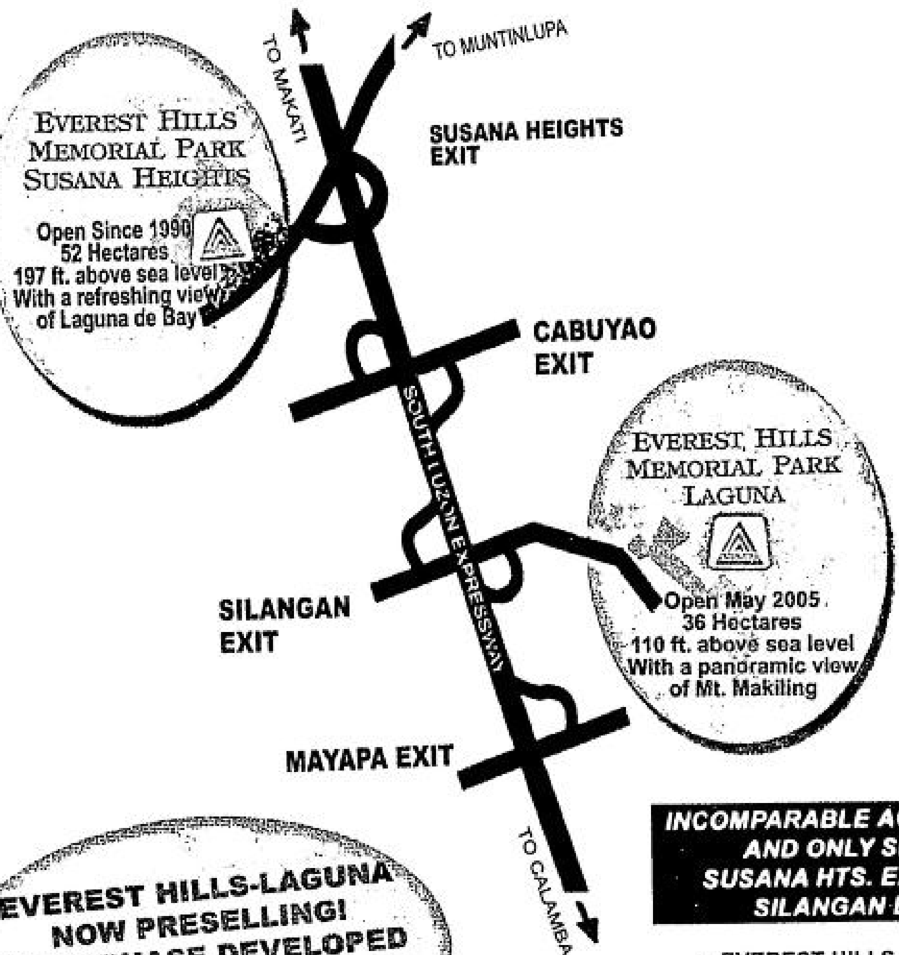
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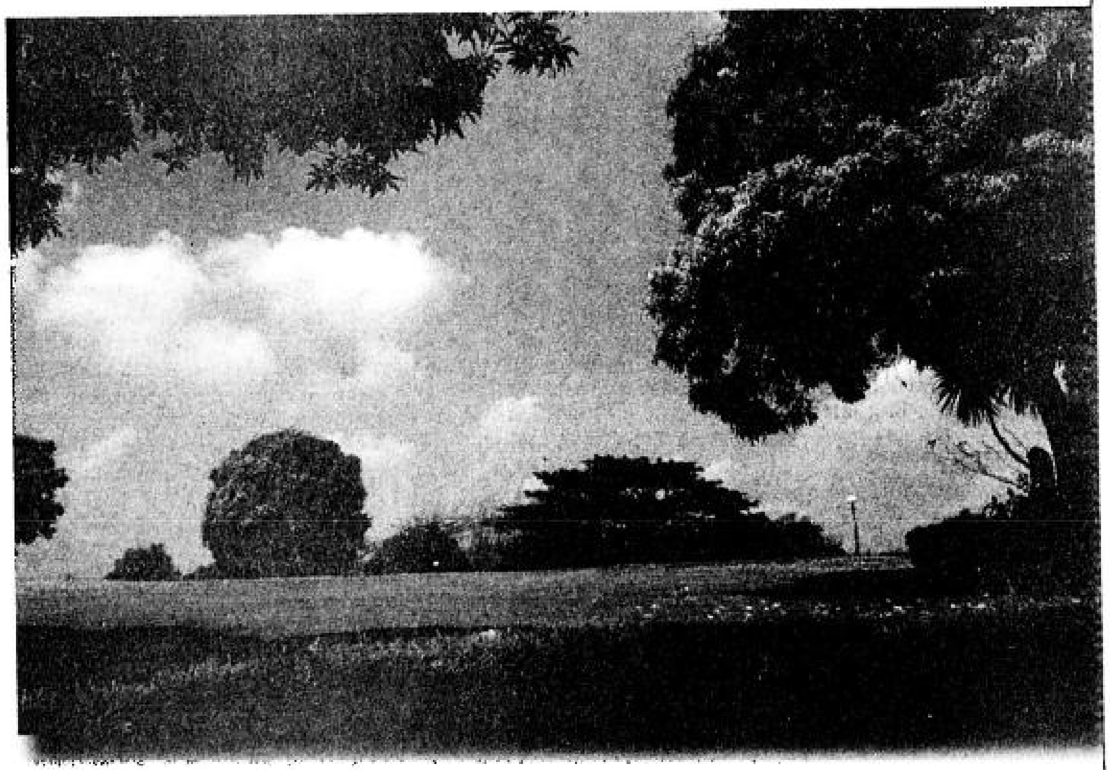

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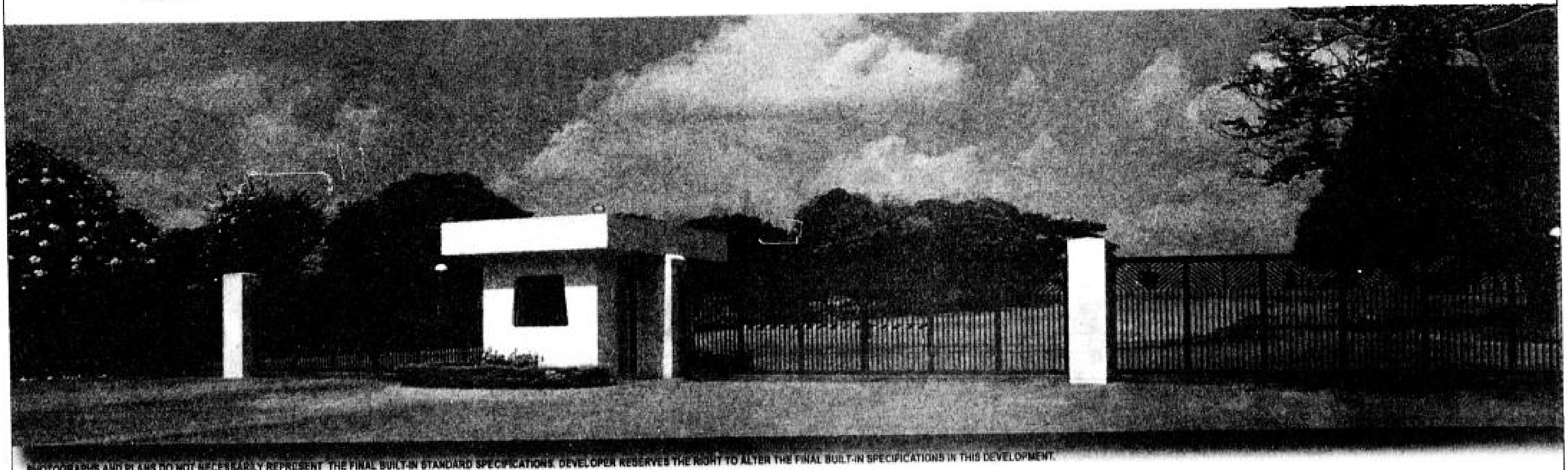

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Boo! VAT jacks up prices

From page A1

The decrease came in the wake of softening crude oil prices in the international market.

Electricity rates in the franchise area of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) will go up by an average of 58 centavos per kilowatt-hour based on the September rate of P7.30 per kWh, the company earlier said.

Because petroleum products and electricity are major inputs in many industries, the prices of other basic commodities and services are also expected to rise.

Pity the poor

"Pity those who do not have money, those who have no jobs," Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal told reporters in an interview.

Vidal said he was "not happy" about the tax measure, noting that it will weigh heavily on the poor, who account for the majority of Filipinos.

"Many of them eat no more than once a day," he quoted nuns assigned to one of the poorest communities under his archdiocese as telling him. "And even if they had food, it is not enough for that one meal."

Vidal said that even the Church stood to suffer from the VAT largely because it would discourage donations. "As it is, alms from the people are already few," he said.

Civil disobedience

The Department of Finance estimates that the VAT will generate P4 billion to P5 billion in the remaining months of the year, and about P81.41 billion yearly beginning in 2006.

Militant organizations are planning work slowdowns and stoppages, sit down protests and boycotts to protest the implementation of the VAT law.

"The implementation of the VAT is like an economic massacre on the poor," said Renato Reyes, secretary general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

Reyes said Bayan and its allied organizations—Kilusang Mayo Uno, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and Pamalakaya—were looking into the details of a civil disobedience campaign against the Arroyo administration.

"VAT will provide one of the bases for civil disobedience soon," he said.

Members of the youth group Anakbayan are planning to desist from paying their utility bills because of the VAT.

"They want us to tighten our belts when we have no more room to breathe. We are left with no choice. We have to resort to drastic means to survive. Our meager incomes cannot be scrimped any further to cope with the continuous surging prices of oil and other basic commodities," Anakbayan secretary general Eleanor de Guzman said.

"Instead of paying more due to VAT on electricity and water, we choose food on our tables instead," she said.

Vampire

The President yesterday was called a "modern-day vampire" for her "blood-sucking" economic policies as exemplified by the VAT.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano said Ms Arroyo was "out to drain the Filipino people's blood" because the VAT's implementation coincided with All Saints' Day.

Unlike Queen Akasha, the mythical mother of all vampires played by the late singer Aaliyah in the 2002 movie "Queen of the Damned," the President would prey on her victims even in daylight, Mariano said.

"Ms Arroyo's VAT will further bleed the Filipino people dry not only in the cover of night but also in broad daylight," he said.

The militant lawmaker, who had voted against the law, said the locally available antivampire antidote, garlic, and sunlight won't work against the President.

Lifeline customers

While it had yet to file a new rate schedule with the Energy Regulatory Commission, Meralco had already come up with initial computations on the impact of VAT on its customers, according to Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla.

Lifeline rate customers, or those consuming 100 kWh or less a month, will still be entitled to discounts: 50 percent for those using between 1 and 50 kWh, 35 percent for those consuming between 51 and 70 kWh, and 20 percent for those using between 71 and 100 kWh.

Factoring in these discounts, households using between 1 kWh and 50 kWh a month will see a P13.74 increase in their electricity bills. Those using 70 kWh will see their bills rise by P25.75, and those consuming 100 kWh will have to shell out an additional P46.

Meralco customers using around 200 kWh will see their bills rise by P118.44 a month. More than 1.2 million Meralco customers, or 31.8 percent of total customers, are in this consumption bracket.

The price increases will be reflected on customers' bills as soon as the ERC approves Meralco's new rate schedule. The VAT collection, however, will be retroactive to Nov. 1.

In the Visayas and Mindanao, Lotilla said, the impact of VAT would not be as big as in Luzon because these areas made greater use of power from hydro and geothermal sources.

Under the expanded VAT law, power from hydro and geothermal sources is still exempted from the VAT, according to Lotilla.

In Davao City, for example, he said the expected impact was only around 14 centavos per kWh for residential customers. The impact would be higher in Cagayan de Oro City at 22 centavos per kWh and in Cebu City, at 29 centavos per kWh.

Softening world oil prices

Refiners Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. yesterday announced that the recent softening of world oil prices had given them enough leeway to bring down gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices by 60 centavos a liter by 12:01 a.m. today.

Major importer Caltex Philippines Inc. and Total (Philippines) Inc. will also adjust the prices of the three products by the same levels at the same time.

According to data from the DOE, after surging over the past several months, the regional benchmark Dubai crude slipped to an October average of $54.08 a barrel, more than $2 lower than the September average of $56.54 a barrel.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), benchmark for refined petroleum products also declined by almost $10 to $69.62 a barrel in the first 28 days of the month from a high $79.40-a-barrel average last month.

The price of MOPS-based diesel has also started to fall, dropping to an Oct. 1-28 average of $76.72 a barrel from $79.67 a barrel in September.

Petron public affairs manager Virginia Ruivivar said these declines should translate into a P1-a-liter reduction in fuel prices. The continuing volatility of prices, however, kept the oil refiner from immediately reflecting that amount in its pump prices.

"It's too early to reflect that in full," she said in a briefing.

Dealers get 15 centavos

She added that the oil firm had also chosen to give dealers a chance to boost their margins a bit by implementing a pump price cut of only 60 centavos when it could have announced a price reduction of 75 centavos a liter.

Petron dealers, she explained, had not been posting decent margins these past months, often registering margins of only 1 percent or 2 percent and sometimes even shouldering losses.

To help them recover, she said Petron opted to pass on 15 centavos a liter to them by way of implementing a rollback of only 60 centavos a liter.

The price cuts by oil companies and mitigating measures by the government reduced the impact of the VAT on kerosene to only P1.40 a liter instead of P2.06, on unleaded gasoline to P2.37 instead of P3.03, and on cooking gas to P22.17 per 11-kilogram cylinder instead of P35.37.

To help reduce the impact of the VAT on fuel and LPG, Malacañang issued Executive Order No. 440, which brought down the tariff on crude and refined petroleum product imports from 5 percent to 3 percent.

DOE data showed that the tariff reduction would result in corresponding price decreases of 52 centavos a liter for unleaded gasoline, 46 centavos for regular gasoline, 57 centavos for diesel and kerosene, 35 centavos for bunker, and P10.03 for each 11-kilogram cylinder of cooking gas.

Apart from the tariff reduction, excise taxes on diesel at P1.63 a liter, kerosene at 60 centavos a liter and fuel oil at 30 centavos will be scrapped. The excise tax on regular gasoline will also be slashed by 45 centavos a liter to P4.35 from P4.80.

The price cuts, coupled by the mitigating measures, trimmed down the average impact of the VAT on pump prices to only about 5 percent instead of the full 10 percent, Ruivivar said. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora*

Arroyo hacienda finds way out of land reform

From page A1

told farm workers during a meeting last month that the 157-hectare Hacienda Bacan in Barangay Guintubhan, Isabela, "would not be under CARP anymore."

Farmer leader Ricardo Gargancel said Representative Arroyo announced that he had obtained a certification from the National Economic and Development Authority authorizing the conversion of the hacienda from agricultural to industrial land.

An official of the Department of Agrarian Reform, however, said the Arroyos could not obtain a conversion permit from Neda because only the DAR had the authority to approve the conversion of agricultural land to other uses.

"He cannot do that. Only the DAR can approve conversions. Perhaps the Neda just recognized the potential of the (Arroyo) land as a site for an ethanol plant," the official, who asked not to be named, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

According to Gargancel, the congressman said the land could not be distributed to its 68 farm workers because of the conversion.

"That was his claim but he did not present the certification from Neda," Gargancel, chair of the Hacienda Bacan Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association, said in a phone interview yesterday.

Iggy Arroyo gathered the farm workers for a "dialogue concerning issues in the hacienda" on Oct. 14 at the session hall of the Isabela municipal hall.

Gawad Kalinga

The meeting, presided over by Isabela Mayor Renato Malabor and Vice Mayor Melvin Ibañez, instead focused on the use of the hacienda for an ethanol plant and a housing project by Gawad Kalinga.

The government has been frantically searching for alternative sources of fuel, such as ethanol, to cushion the impact of skyrocketing prices of petroleum products.

The President has certified as urgent the ethanol bill filed by Bukidnon Rep. Miguel Zubiri and more than 100 other lawmakers.

If passed, the bill would compel oil companies to include up to 10 percent of ethanol in gasoline. Ethanol is seen as a more sustainable fuel source.

Ethanol is derived from plants and fruits, such as sugarcane and cassava. It could be used as a blending mixture for gasoline to help bring down price of the fuel.

Indian investor

Arroyo said around 30 families of farmers who live in the hacienda were open to the idea of turning the area into an industrial zone.

"I hold monthly meetings with them and I think they were much happier and receptive to the idea. They would get more benefits," the lawmaker said.

"They will receive industrial wages and I'll put them in Philhealth for their hospitalization needs. There will also be scholarships for those who are not yet qualified for industrial wages," he said.

Indian investors are interested in setting up factories that will produce ethanol gas in the industrial zone, according to Arroyo.

A herbal medicine company is also interested in setting up shop in the zone.

Opposition

Arroyo said there was some opposition from Task Force Mapalad (TFM), a group of agrarian reform advocates, but he noted that its members were not among those who would be affected by the plan.

"And we are addressing their concerns. We're going to solve these carefully. The farmer-beneficiaries also have our assurance," he said.

Gargancel said the local officials supported the conversion of Hacienda Bacan which, according to the vice mayor, was covered by a zoning ordinance identifying the area as industrial.

Sold to Mike Arroyo

The DAR official said he could not recall an application for conversion filed by the First Gentleman or his family's Rivulet Agro-Industrial Corp. with the department.

Rivulet used to own Hacienda Bacan, among other Arroyo haciendas, but this was sold to Miguel Arroyo for P176,722 in 1994.

When President Macapagal-Arroyo was installed in 2001, she placed under CARP the vast landholdings of her husband's family in Negros to set an example to other landlords.

Among those covered by CARP was Hacienda Bacan, which Ignacio Arroyo, as president of Rivulet, volunteered to sell in 2001.

Land Bank of the Philippines, which assesses the value of agricultural lands, however, did not honor Ignacio's offer because the voluntary-offer-to-sell (VOS) form should have been signed by Miguel Arroyo, who was the registered owner of the hacienda.

Christmas gift

"Iggy said in June that Hacienda Bacan would be his Christmas gift to us, and that we should not be in such a hurry because he himself would arrange for Mike to sign the form, but now it looks like our wait was in vain," Gargancel said.

The DAR official said Hacienda Bacan was technically not yet covered by CARP because of the glitch in the VOS. The Arroyos, he said, would still have to apply for conversion with the DAR if they want to use the land for non-agricultural purposes, which they have not yet done.

"The cut-off date for conversion is when the Landbank releases a memorandum of valuation. But since it has not yet issued that memorandum, they (Arroyos) can go ahead with the application for conversion without the approval of the farmer beneficiaries," the official said.

Another meeting

Representative Arroyo said he did not think the conversion of the farmland to an industrial zone would have a negative effect on the government's agrarian reform program.

The President had announced that her in-laws decided to place many of their landholdings under CARP to highlight her administration's agrarian reform campaign.

"I don't think it will do any harm. This way, we can take care of the farmers' interests. They will get more benefits," Arroyo said.

He said the President had not been informed about the plan to convert the hacienda into an industrial zone.

"Basically, the President did not know about it. This was formerly Arroyo property, not Macapagal. We are not in the habit of informing her about our decisions," Arroyo said.

The lawmaker has scheduled another meeting with the hacienda workers for Nov. 11, according to Gargancel.

Benguet's Ibaloi, Kankanaey sleep with the dead

From page A1

Guzman clan are interred. The earliest burial in the area happened 110 years ago.

Former La Trinidad Mayor Clemente Laoyan was buried right in a room of his house in Barangay Betag.

In Baguio, at least eight members of the Carantes clan, one of the early settlers in the city, were entombed below the house of a clan caretaker, which is located across from Loakan Airport. The government this year helped finance the relocation of the graves to a family shrine about 100 meters from the airport's gates.

In Barangay Madaymen, Kibungan town, big tombs can be seen in the middle of vegetable farms.

Dr. Esteban Piok, provincial health officer and director of the Benguet General Hospital, said health and sanitation laws could not compel the tribes to bury the dead in cemeteries because of tradition.

Elaborate rituals

"The best we could do is ask the relatives to embalm their dead, particularly when the wake will take more than six or seven days," he said.

Piok, an Ibaloi from Bokod town, said death rituals were the most elaborately observed among Benguet people and which health authorities have learned to accept.

"Traditional burial practices are not hazardous. They could not be deemed environmentally unsound," he told the INQUIRER.

"There had been no reports of health problems caused by burials near the homes," he said.

Board Member Liso Agpas, author of the province's first environmental code, said no ordinance existed in Benguet's 13 towns requiring that the dead must be buried in cemeteries.

"This is because burial customs are laws by themselves and as a sign of respect, town councils refrain from passing ordinances affecting burial practices," he said.

La Trinidad Councilor William Esteban, whose ancestors own the "Paltingan Corral," agreed.

"We never thought of enacting a town zoning ordinance that would disturb the practice of burying the dead in the homes," he said.

Picpican, also the curator of the Saint Louis University Museum in Baguio, said burying the dead on his property has some political implications on ancestral land issues.

Proof of property ownership

When a person is buried on his property, it means that the area was really his and the presence of his remains there would be an insurance of his ownership, he said.

"The remains will also deter careless heirs from unreasonably selling the property to other people," he said.

Disturbing the remains of the dead buried on his own land would likewise lead to a conflict with elders and heirs.

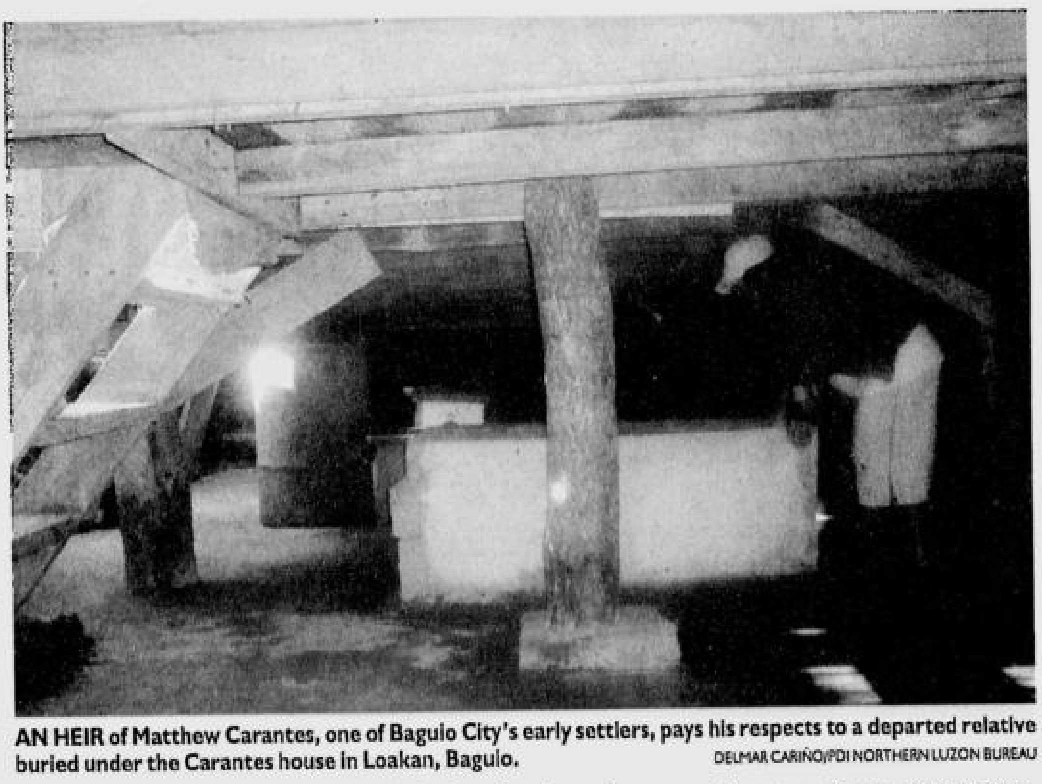
The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) found this out when it asserted its right over a portion of the Carantes clan's ancestral land in Baguio four years ago.

Valentino Carantes, a councilor of Tuba town and one of the heirs, assailed Peza for disturbing a half a hectare property where a portion actually served as a burial ground of the clan.

The heirs and elders met and decided to sue Peza.

Settling land disputes

The dispute was settled, however, after Peza officials and elders of the Carantes clan agreed that Peza would provide a relocation site for the remains of their dead relatives.



AN HEIR of Matthew Carantes, one of Baguio City's early settlers, pays his respects to a departed relative buried under the Carantes house in Loakan, Baguio. DELMAR CARIÑO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

"But our decision to settle did not mean we surrendered our ancestral claim over the property. We just wanted peace to prevail," Carantes said.

The relocation this year though proved costly for Peza. Twenty-nine pigs were butchered and food and native wine were prepared for the rituals performed to transfer the dead.

It was then that Peza learned that one of the 13 skeletal remains that would be transferred belonged to Mateo "Kustacio" Carantes, a liaison officer of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo in the Cordilleras.

Informed of the transfer of Mateo's remains, the Philippine Army immediately sent a unit to honor him with a 21-gun salute.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE VAT REFORM LAW [RA 9337]

What is Value-Added Tax (VAT)?

VAT is a consumption tax imposed on the sale or importation of goods and services in the ordinary course of business.

Is this a new tax?

No. Most goods and services are already subject to VAT. But we still need the reforms in the VAT system (RA9337) to increase government revenues.

Why do we need RA 9337?

The Government needs to raise additional revenues to provide basic public services (like education, health, etc.) for the growing population and to immediately address the country's debt that has accumulated through the years.

- In 2004, for every peso earned by the government, 86 centavos go to debt servicing – 37 centavos go to interest payments and 49 centavos to principal payments.
- For every peso spent by the government, 11 centavos are spent on infrastructure such as roads, bridges, schools, buildings and other public needs.

What are the salient features of the RA 9337?

The 10% VAT rate is retained; however, the President shall increase the VAT rate to 12% in 2006 if **(a)** VAT-collection-to-GDP ratio for 2005 exceeds 2.8%, or **(b)** the National Government deficit-to-GDP ratio for 2005 exceeds 1.5%.

The following goods and services are now subject to VAT:

- Petroleum products and other indigenous fuels
- Power and electric cooperatives
- Services rendered by doctors
- Services rendered by lawyers
- Domestic carriage of passengers by air and sea
- Non-food agricultural products
- Works of art, literary works, musical compositions

RA 9337 TAKES EFFECT NOVEMBER 1, 2005

Why should the VAT rate be increased from 10% to 12%?

- This is part of a bigger effort to address the country's budget deficit. We need to increase our tax collection to sustain the government's delivery of basic services. While we can conceptually reduce government expenditures, we can only reduce it by so much because the public relies on government for these basic services, which include education and medical services.
- If we increase the VAT rate from 10% to 12% in 2006, we can raise as much as P35.12 billion more. On the other hand, if this measure is coupled with the repeal of the VAT exemptions mentioned above and other provisions of the VAT bill, we can raise up to P81.41 billion assuming a 70% collection efficiency.
- Raising these additional revenues is expected to translate to the strengthening of the Peso-Dollar exchange rate and better interest rates arising from improved investor perception of the Philippines.

Why RA 9337 is NOT anti-poor.

RA 9337 recognizes the needs of the poor and exempts basic commodities and socially sensitive products from VAT.

Among these VAT exempt commodities are:

- agricultural and marine products in their original state such as vegetables, meat, fish, fruits, eggs and rice
- lease of residential houses not exceeding P10,000 monthly
- educational services rendered by both public and private educational institutions
- books, newspapers and magazines;
- sales of persons and establishments earning not more than P1.5 million annually, which could include sari-sari stores, carinderias and street vendors.

Will pump prices of fuel increase due to VAT?

- Pump prices of fuel will increase slightly. But to cushion the impact of imposing VAT on fuel, RA 9337 put in place a reduction of excise tax on kerosene, diesel and bunker fuel oil so that what would otherwise result in a 10% increase in pump prices of these products would be minimized. Thus, pump prices of petroleum products will increase between 2.8%-8.4% only, instead of a full 10%. For example, LPG costing P470.00 per cylinder will increase to P505.97 per cylinder – instead of P517.00 per cylinder. Kerosene costing P34.01 per liter will increase to P36.12 per liter – instead of P37.41.

Petroleum Product	Pump Price as of 10/24/05 (in Peso/liter)	Mitigation		New Pump Price	10% VAT	Final Pump Price	Price Increase (in Peso/liter)	0% Increase
		Excise	Tariff					
Unleaded	36.05	0.00	(0.52)	35.53	3.55	39.08	3.03	8.4%
Regular	34.57	(0.45)	(0.46)	33.66	3.37	37.03	2.46	7.1%
Diesel	32.95	(1.63)	(0.57)	30.75	3.08	33.83	0.88	2.7%
Kerosene	33.51	(0.60)	(0.57)	32.34	3.23	35.57	2.06	6.2%
Bunker	21.98	(0.30)	(0.35)	21.33	2.13	23.46	1.48	6.7%
LPG (per cylinder)	464.00	0.00	10.03	453.97	45.40	499.37	35.37	7.6%

- Based on October 1-20, 2005 MOPS/Contract Price. Pump prices may vary based on location, company and other factors.

VAT is a consumption tax. Those who consume more will be taxed more. In the case of fuel, for example, the richest 30% of Filipino families consume about 65% of the total fuel used in the country while the poorest 30% only account for about eight percent of the total consumption. This means that a bigger share of the tax burden will be borne by those who consume more fuel.

What is the impact of VAT on power rates?

The government is doing everything to mitigate the impact of VAT on power rates. The franchise tax on power distribution utilities was removed so that the increase in power rates is less than 10%.

Distribution Utility	Existing Ave. Resd'l. Rate (No VAT) (Peso/kwh)	Estimated Ave. Resd'l. Rate with VAT (Peso/kwh)	% Increase
MERALCO (NCR)	6.6366	7.1547	7.8%
VECO (Cebu)	6.2173	6.5167	4.8%
CEPALCO (Cagayan de Oro)	5.3046	5.5519	4.7%
Davao Light (Davao)	4.8402	4.986	3.0%

- DOE figures as of October 28, 2005
- Estimate for Meralco is based on weighted average rates of residential customers 50 - 1,000 kwh; VECO estimate assumes a 70 % zero-rated generation for NPC; Davao Light estimate assumes a 75% zero-rated generation for NPC; CEPALCO estimate assumes a 60% zero-rated generation for NPC.

If the Department of Energy proposed scheme is approved by ERC, it is estimated that there will be no power rate increase for Meralco residential customers, for example, who consume not more than 200 kwh per month (lifeline customers). Power rates for residential customers who consume more than 200 kwh but not more than 999 kwh per month shall increase by P0.73/kwh. For residential customers who consume 1,000 kwh or more per month and commercial and industrial customers, power rates will increase by P0.85/kwh.

What is the impact of imposing VAT on petroleum products to VAT exempt agricultural food products?

It is estimated that VAT exempt agricultural food products such as rice, corn, fish, vegetables, chicken and pork will increase by not more than 1% due to the imposition of VAT on petroleum products.

Will the prices of goods already subject to VAT increase due to the imposition of VAT on petroleum products and power?

The imposition of VAT on petroleum products and power will have minimal impact the prices of goods that are already subject to VAT.

To further minimize the effect of VAT on sardines, milk, noodles, sugar and cooking oil, the VAT system allows manufacturers of these products to credit against their output VAT a presumptive input VAT equivalent to 4 % of the value of their purchases of primary agricultural products used in the production of these goods.

How will the incremental VAT collection be used?

RA 9337 addresses the delivery of basic services by earmarking the equivalent of 20% of the incremental VAT collection for the following purposes: public elementary and secondary education, health insurance premiums, environmental conservation and agricultural modernization, equivalent to the following:

	20% of incremental VAT collection*
Public Elementary and Secondary Education	6%
Health Insurance Premiums	4%
Environmental Conservation	6%
Agricultural Modernization	4%
TOTAL	20%

*Funds will be available to the LGU after three years in accordance with the Local Government Code

Sector	2006 Physical Units
Public Elementary and Secondary Education	521 single single-story bldgs w/ 5 classrooms
Health Insurance premiums	3.1M indigents to be newly covered
Environmental Conservation	9,190 hectares for reforestation
Agricultural Modernization	1,012 kms of farm-to-market roads

* For illustration purposes only
** Funds will be available to the LGU after three years in accordance with the Local Government Code

An additional P15 million was earmarked for Public Information and Education Program that will explain clearly to businesses the administrative requirements under the VAT.

Also, starting 2006, 30% of the incremental VAT collection for the year will be used for capital expenditures. This amount will be increased by 5% yearly until it reaches 50% in 2010.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Portion of incremental VAT collection that will go to investments in social services and government capital expenditure	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%

What other measures mitigate the impact of RA 9337?

- reduction of excise tax on gasoline, diesel, kerosene and bunker fuel
- removal of franchise tax on domestic airlines and common carriers tax on domestic shipping
- increase in presumptive input VAT of agro-processors from 1.5% to 4%
- increase the VAT marginal threshold from P550,000 to P1.5 million per year; rental threshold from P8,000/mo to P10,000/mo; real property threshold from P1 million to P2.5 million

Who will bear the heavier burden of VAT?

Since VAT is a consumption tax, its burden is heavier on those who consume more VATable goods and services.

- Most of the goods consumed by lower income families are VAT exempt.
- Based on the spending profiles of Filipino families across income classes, those families spending not more than P60,000 annually spend only 0.2% of their expenditures on taxes (VAT, excise and other taxes). This is largely because of their purchases of VAT-exempt goods (such as foodstuffs consumed at home, which constitute more than 60% of their purchases).
- On the other extreme, those families spending upwards of P250,000 annually spend at least 4.10% of their expenditures on taxes, largely because they consume more VATable goods and services.

Will consumers bear the whole burden of RA 9337?

RA 9337 introduces a burden-sharing scheme among different sectors of society to address the country's financial problems.

- Corporate income tax was increased to 35% until end of 2008, then it will be reduced to 30%.
- Gross receipts tax was increased from 5% to 7% on royalties, rentals of property, real or personal, profits from exchange and all other items treated as gross income, of banks and non-bank financial intermediaries
- Income tax exemption of PAGCOR was removed

What is the government doing to address corruption and tax evasion?

Operation: RATE (Run After Tax Evaders) was launched to prosecute tax evaders, while **Operation: RATS** (Run After the Smugglers) was launched to prosecute smugglers. **RIPS** (Revenue Integrity Protection Service) was also launched to prosecute corrupt revenue officers and employees.

It is also important that citizens help ensure that the VAT they paid will go to the government. One way of doing this is by asking for official receipts every time payment is made for VATable goods and services.

Can't we just improve tax collection efficiency instead of imposing new taxes?

The Department of Finance is introducing a more efficient tax collection system. But this is not an easy task, including the implementation of the solution to the problem. For example, due process requirements in our Constitution demand a careful investigation, prosecution and removal of corrupt government officials and employees. Now, we need to immediately address the fiscal problem of the country, especially the country's debt. We expect that the RA 9337 will address this most immediate need of the country.

Who can consumers and taxpayers call for questions about price increases due to VAT or general queries on RA 9337?

DOE Consumer Welfare and Promotions Office Hotline No. 840-2267. Complaints should be directed to Retail Marketing Division, Oil Industry Management Bureau. For LPG, call 840-2130. For Liquid Fuels, call 840-5669.

DTI To report any abnormal or drastic increase in prices of goods attributed to VAT, call 751-3330.

BIR For queries on VAT and other BIR-related concerns, call 981-8888. You may also visit **www.vatreform.gov.ph** for more information on RA 9337.

DA For questions on VAT and agricultural products, call 920-9178, 920-2216, 371-2050.

Kashmiri group owns Delhi bombings

NEW DELHI—A LITTLE-KNOWN GROUP THAT police say has ties to Pakistan-based militants fighting in divided Kashmir took credit for three blasts that killed 62 people in New Delhi, but Indian officials appeared hesitant to blame anyone on the Pakistani side of the border.

Authorities said they already had gathered useful clues about the near-simultaneous blasts Saturday night that ripped through a bus and two markets crowded with shoppers ahead of the Hindu festival of Diwali.

Investigators reportedly raided dozens of small hotels in the city looking for suspects, and police said they were questioning "numerous" people.

Security was tight across New Delhi on Monday as shaken residents returned to work. In the western city of Jaipur, Indian and Sri Lankan cricketers observed two minutes of silence ahead of their one-day international to honor those who died in the bombings.

The attacks came at a particularly sensitive time, as India and Pakistan hashed out an unprecedented agreement to partially open the heavily militarized frontier that divides the disputed territory of Kashmir to speed relief to victims of the region's Oct. 8 earthquake. The border deal was finalized early Sunday.

Indian officials usually blame Pakistan-based separatists linked to an Islamic insurgency in India's part of Kashmir for any terror attacks on its soil.

Such accusations of Pakistani involvement in a 2001 attack on parliament put the nuclear-armed rivals on the brink of a fourth war. But they pulled back and—amid peace efforts that began early last year—both sides appeared intent on maintaining the peace after the latest attacks.

"We have lots of information but it is not proper to disclose it yet," Indian Home Minister Shivraj Patil told journalists after an emergency Cabinet meeting. "The investigation is going well."

Pakistan's government was quick to condemn the bombings.

A man who identified himself as Ahmed Yaar Ghaznavi called a news agency in Indian Kashmir to say the militant Islamic Inquilab Mahaz, or Front for Islamic Uprising, staged the deadly bombings that also wounded 210 people.

The caller said the bombings were "meant as a rebuff to the claims of Indian security groups" that militants had been wiped out by security crackdowns and the massive quake that devastated the insurgents' heartland in the mountains of Kashmir.

Police in Indian Kashmir said intelligence agencies were not familiar with the caller's name and the government refused to comment on the claim of responsibility. *AP*

Probers stumped one month after Bali bombings

JAKARTA, INDONESIA—INDONESIAN POLICE concede they've made little progress in their investigation into the Bali bombings one month ago, but terrorism experts say it's only a matter of time before there is a breakthrough.

Bali police chief Gen. I Made Pastika said Monday that identifying the three men who carried out the Oct. 1 suicide strikes that killed 23 people, including the bombers, and wounded more than 100 others remains a top priority for his detectives.

But while pictures of the bombers' severed heads have been circulated nationwide, followed by a $10,000 reward for information about their identities, "so far nobody has come forward," he said.

This has stymied investigators, leading to speculation that the three may have been foreigners, possibly from Malaysia or Muslim areas of the southern Philippines.

Police say identifying the men who bombed the three crowded restaurants could lead to the suspected masterminds, Azahari bin Husin and Noordin Mohamed Top, alleged to be key figures in the regional terror group Jemaah Islamiyah.

Though there has been little progress in the probe so far, terrorism analysts note that investigators were not much quicker in identifying the perpetrators of four earlier bombings attributed to Jemaah Islamiyah, a shadowy network of extremist groups with cells in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the southern Philippines.

In 2000, bombs exploded at 11 churches across Indonesia on Christmas Eve, killing 19 people. Two years later, more than 200 people perished in two coordinated blasts in Bali's Kuta district, and in 2003 a car bomb killed 12 people at Jakarta's Marriott Hotel. Last year, a minivan blew up in front of the Australian Embassy in downtown Jakarta, killing 11.

Police have arrested hundreds of suspects in those cases and several dozen have been tried and convicted, including five who received death sentences.

The wave of arrests, made with the help of investigators from Australia and the United States, has greatly reduced Jemaah Islamiyah's organizational capabilities, said Ken Conboy, a Jakarta security consultant and author of "The Second Front," a newly published book on the terror group. *AP*

Vietnam Virgin Mary statue 'not crying'—church

HANOI—THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN VIETNAM has been forced to deny that a statue of the Virgin Mary is crying after thousands of people had flocked to observe the "miracle" at Ho Chi Minh City cathedral.

Rumors first spread late Saturday that the statue was crying in front of the cathedral, drawing thousands of the faithful and curious and creating serious traffic jams.

Monday morning, according to a witness contacted by telephone, around a thousand people were still gathered in front of the white statue but traffic was back to normal.

Some photographers were selling pictures of it featuring a "tear" on its right cheek.

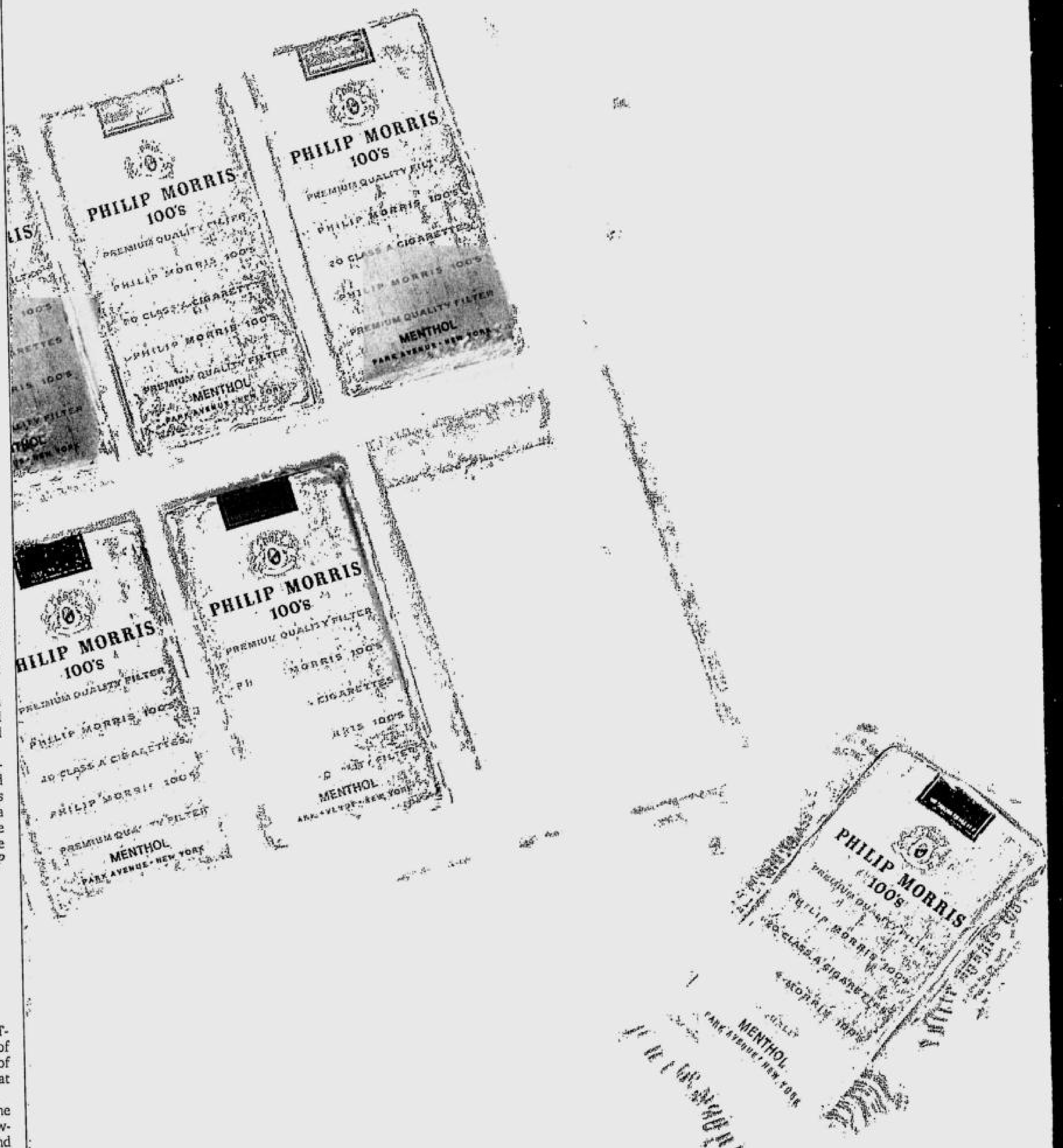
"Many people, I cannot estimate how many they are, have gathered here from different parts of the city" these last two days, said a source at the cathedral, who requested anonymity.

"This is superstitious and fabricated news," the church worker said Monday. "Don't believe it!"

"Father Huynh Cong Minh, head of the church, told followers at a Mass on Sunday morning that they should not listen to the words of fabricators," he said, adding the statue had been left in the open for a long time and attributed the "tears" to rain and dust.

The Tuoi Tre newspaper said Monday similar incidents had happened before in Ho Chi Minh City.

Vietnam has eight million Catholics in its population of more than 82 million, the second largest Catholic community in Asia after the Philippines. There are no official figures on the number of Catholics in China. *AFP*



Government Warnin
is dangerous

Rove's head demanded in wake of leak scandal

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WASHINGTON—US PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush, whose top adviser Karl Rove remains in jeopardy in a CIA-leak probe, needs to shake up his White House staff if he hopes to revive a presidency reeling from multiple setbacks, Republican and Democratic lawmakers said on Sunday.

The lawmakers also urged Bush to investigate the office of Vice President Dick Cheney, whose chief of staff, Lewis Libby, resigned on Friday and was indicted on perjury and other charges in connection with the probe.

Bush should take Cheney "to the woodshed" if necessary, a Democratic lawmaker said, and the Senate's top Democrat said Rove should be fired or quit.

"I think Karl Rove should step down," Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada said on ABC's "This Week."

Mississippi Republican Sen. Trent Lott said the Bush administration needed "new blood, new energy, qualified staff," and that he expected the president to address his problems.

"I'm not talking about wholesale changes, but you've got to reach out and bring in more advice and counsel," Lott said on "Fox News Sunday."

Rove remains under investigation in the probe into who leaked the identity of covert CIA operative Valerie Plame, whose diplomat husband is a prominent Iraq war critic. The White House's credibility has been hurt by disclosures that Rove and Libby leaked Plame's identity, despite earlier official denials attributed to the two men.

Reid said Bush and Cheney owed the public an apology. "They should come clean with the American public," he said on ABC.

Rove has been the chief architect of Bush's political career. However, lawmakers questioned whether he is an obstacle to Bush's recovery from problems including growing public opposition to the Iraq war, a botched response to Hurricane Katrina and the withdrawal of Harriet Miers' nomination to the US Supreme Court under fire from both parties.

"(Although) there's no existing evidence here that Karl Rove is about to be indicted … the president has to make a determination as to whether or not he wants to be preoccupied with legal issues around the White House," Democratic Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut said on "Fox News Sunday."

Lott raised similar concerns but said any decision should be left to Rove.

"If he has a problem, I think he's got to step-up and … acknowledge that and deal with it," Lott said. "If he's not going to be indicted … then, you know, his view of what he does is very different," he said.

Reid previewed the potential for Rove to become a political lightning-rod, seeing his hand in what he said were White House plans to name a right-wing replacement for Miers who would spark an attention-diverting partisan brawl in the Senate.

"The president, I guess, is still being driven by Karl Rove," Reid told ABC's "This Week."

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan, asked about Rove's status on Friday, said he still works at the White House and declined to discuss any conversations between Bush and his senior staff. *Reuters*

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Asia drug-makers ready to make Tamiflu generics

SINGAPORE—DRUG-MAKERS ACROSS ASIA are jostling to make generic versions of Tamiflu once patent holder Roche relaxes its grip on the antiviral pill that could save many lives in case of a bird flu pandemic.

From India to Southeast Asia, talks are underway with the Swiss pharmaceutical giant for sub-licenses and other arrangements to manufacture the highly sought-after drug as governments beef up their stockpiles.

Roche, which had kept a tight rein on the manufacturing process to ensure quality control, succumbed to global pressure and agreed this month to share the technology amid escalating warnings of a pandemic that could kill millions.

Tamiflu is not a vaccine against avian flu, but eases its impact and thus boosts patients' chances to survive infection.

Evidence that bird flu has spread to Europe from Asia, where the lethal H5N1 strain has killed more than 60 people since 2003, has increased demand for the drug amid fears the virus will become easily transferable among humans.

"Considering the recent spread of H5N1 virus, the Roche decision was the responsible thing to do and should be applauded," said Duane Gubler, director of the Hawaii-based Asia-Pacific Institute for Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases.

"If there is a pandemic, that decision could result in helping to save many lives," he said.

Koh Choon Hui, managing director of Roche Singapore Pte Ltd, said the Basel-based group has been approached by "around 100 companies including some governments" in Asia for the production of Tamiflu.

"These requests are currently being assessed. It is too early to comment who these governments and companies are," Koh told AFP.

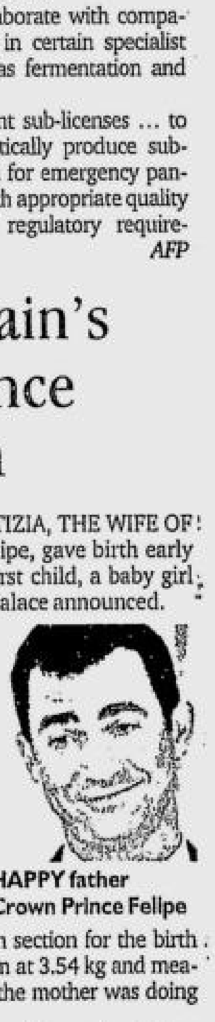
Roche is "willing to collaborate with companies which have expertise in certain specialist manufacturing steps such as fermentation and azide chemistry," he said.

It is also "willing to grant sub-licenses … to companies who can realistically produce substantial amounts of Tamiflu for emergency pandemic use in accordance with appropriate quality specifications, safety and regulatory requirements." *AFP*

Wife of Spain's crown prince gives birth

MADRID—PRINCESS LETIZIA, THE WIFE OF Spanish Crown Prince Felipe, gave birth early Monday to the couple's first child, a baby girl named Leonor, the royal palace announced.

Letizia, a 33-year-old former television news presenter who married the heir to the Spanish throne in May last year, and Leonor were said to be doing well, royal sources said.



HAPPY father Crown Prince Felipe

The princess' gynecologist, Dr. Luis Ignacio Recasens, said he had performed a caesarian section for the birth of the baby who weighed in at 3.54 kg and measured 47 cm, adding that the mother was doing well.

Later Prince Felipe emerged from the clinic to tell the waiting journalists, who had braved hours of torrential rain, that the event had been "the most wonderful thing that could happen to anyone."

"I was by her side and the moment I saw our daughter being born was something exceptional," the prince added.

He explained that the name Leonor was chosen "because it is a name with many historical links, but also because we liked it."

The Spanish crown prince had accompanied his wife to the clinic when she was admitted late Sunday.

There had been much media speculation over the sex of the royal baby. If it had been a boy he would automatically have become next in line to the throne after the Prince Felipe. However a girl could be pushed down the pecking order by the subsequent arrival of any brothers, according to the Spanish constitution. *AFP*

ISSN 0116-2642

INQUIRER

Vol. 20 No. 326

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
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Positive reporting

EDITORIAL

A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE SOCIAL WEATHER Stations at the height of the impeachment move against President Macapagal-Arroyo showed that 41 percent of 1,200 people polled believed the media had become very negative and were not helping the country. That finding is hardly surprising. It is only the latest survey that says reporting by Philippine media has been very negative. And the same observation has been made time and again in the United States, in Europe and in other parts of the world.

A recent paper written in the United States, "Best Practices for Newspaper Journalists," says that "the concern that the press focuses too much on what is wrong, violent and bizarre and that it never prints 'good news' may be the longest-running complaint of the public. The public consistently asks why there is not more 'good' or 'positive' news in the paper."

The same complaint is made over and over again by newspaper readers, radio listeners and TV viewers: Why the concentration on the bad news? Is there no good news to report about our country?

To understand why more bad news than good news is published in the papers, we have to know the nature of news. A popular definition of news is this: "When a dog bites a man, that is not news. When a man bites a dog, that is news." This definition stresses the "oddity" aspect of the news.

Another definition says that news is a story about an aberration or a sensational exception to the norm. Thus, journalists like to point out that every day all over the world, tens of thousands of airplanes land safely at airports, but that is not news because it is normal—a safe landing is always expected. But when an airplane crashes, that is not normal and that is news.

Second, when it comes to political, social and economic news, in a liberal democracy like ours, the media are expected to be adversarial. They act as watchdogs, exposing irregularities in government and in society as a whole. And the media expose these irregularities not only for the sake of digging up dirt. They expose wrongdoings and wrong practices so that they will not be repeated, the erring people punished and the wrong procedures corrected.

Jose Rizal, in dedicating "Noli Me Tangere" to his "Motherland," said: "Desiring your well-being, which is our own, and searching for the best cure, I will do with you as the ancients of old did with their afflicted: expose them on the steps of the temple so that each one who would come to invoke the Divine, would propose a cure for them.

"And to this end, I will attempt to faithfully reproduce your condition without much ado. I will lift part of the shroud that conceals your illness, sacrificing to the truth everything…"

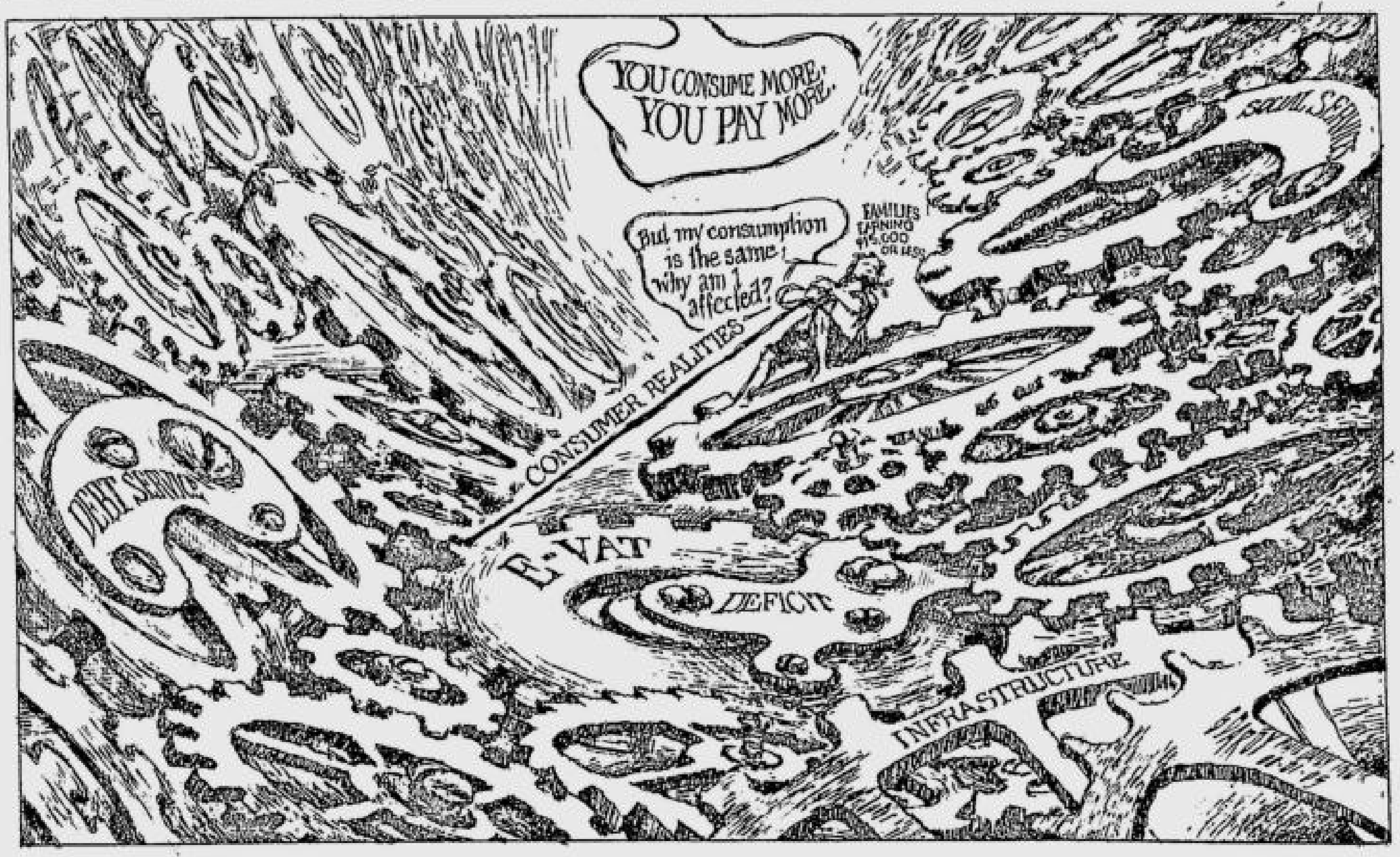
We would like to think that present-day Filipino journalists are spiritual and moral heirs of Rizal and the Propagandists who exposed what was wrong in Philippine society during their time so that these wrongs could be remedied.

Third, the negative stories being written by journalists are not products of their imagination; they are based on facts, on observation, on records and reports, on statistics and interviews. In reporting negative news, journalists are, like the actors who received an exhortation from Hamlet, only holding "the mirror up to nature; to show virtue her own features, scorn her own image, and the very age and body of the time his form and pressure."

But journalists all over the world are becoming more concerned about the media's "negative bias." And they are doing something to correct the imbalance. To cite our own practice, the INQUIRER has long been publishing "positive Sunday issues" where most of the stories on the front page are positive, heart-warming and inspiring. Everyday, INQUIRER editors try to include at least one positive story on Page 1. ABS-CBN and GMA 7 always have at least one positive story in their newscasts.

Geneva Oberholser, former ombudsman of The Washington Post, has a good piece of advice for her colleagues: "…[P]resenting an accurate picture means showing the courage and joy and victory that surrounds us, too. Avoid framing everything as conflict… Emphasize substance over process. Don't exaggerate problems and pathologies. Behave as a citizen and a journalist: Report, write and edit as if you care about where you live."

This is good advice that all socially responsible journalists should take to heart and practice.


YOU CONSUME MORE, YOU PAY MORE.
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Breakthrough or Vatican roulette ?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"ONLI IN DA PILIPINS" IS SHORTHAND FOR the absurd. And our festering population controversy—long settled in other countries—is absurd, church and university scholars told an all-seats-taken San Carlos University seminar. Worse, it impedes growth.

USC's Office of Population Studies organized "Perspectives on Population and Development." OPS is known for landmark demographic studies. Thus, this wasn't another advocacy drill where one zealot was pitted against another fanatic.

"Vatican roulette," scoffs a writer. He simplistically distills all issues into dividing a stagnant economic pie by growing number of mouths. "Population figures are just estimates," wrote a priest in Cebu Daily News. He'd not read the national census head counts?

"Population is complex and its growth alone does not explain poverty," University of the Philippines' Ernesto Pernia said. "Bad governance, high wealth and income inequality and weak economic growth are the main causes."

But surges in population plus high fertility, "specially among the poor, exacerbates poverty," Pernia stressed in a paper co-authored by 21 other UP School of Economics colleagues. Tamping down the number of indigents to one in five by 2010, as government pledges, "is not feasible."

Population here grew 10 times over in the 20th century—from 7.6 million to 76 million, noted Ateneo de Manila University's John Carroll, SJ. Between 1948 and 1960, for example, DDT spraying brought malaria to heel. That pruned death rates by half.

Birth rates also slowed. In 1973, there were six kids per woman then. That dropped to 3.5 in 2003. But this wasn't slow enough. "The UN projected that there'd 86 million Filipinos by 2010," Pernia recalled. "That size would likely be reached by this year."

The resulting "dependency burden" shows social obscenity. Poverty incidence among families with one child is 9.8 percent. But when there are nine kids, penury blankets over half (57.3 percent) of families. That erodes quality of life.

Education spending skids from P5,558 in a family with one child to P682 when there are nine to educate. Cash for health dwindles from P1,700 to P150. School dropouts increase with size of family. So does stunted and underweight children.

About 7 out of 10 unplanned pregnancies are aborted intentionally. And ill-educated, sickly parents lock their children into the same treadmill.

Across social classes, 1 of every 4 women is unable to have her family planning needs met. The rich can afford to pay for services. But not the poor. Hence, the rising pressure for funding family planning.

"To double the income of the poorest 20 percent overnight, we'd have to take only 10.3 percent of the income of the wealthiest 20 percent," Father Carroll said. But the elite are not willing to share their wealth, either through taxes or social measures.

"Are the Church's social teachings our best kept secret?" Ipil Bishop Antonio Ledesma wryly asked. Bishop Ledesma, who is vice president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, notes that the Second Vatican Council in its document "The Church in the Modern World," taught: "Parents, with docile reverence towards God, will make decisions by common consent and effort. Let them thoughtfully take into account both their own welfare and that of their children, those already born and which the future may bring…. (consulting) interests of the family group, of temporal society, and the Church…"

In Malaybalay, Cagayan de Oro and Zamboanga Sibugay and other Mindanao dioceses, the Church actively offers a range of natural family planning (NFP) services in line with that policy.

The three felt needs of couples today, Bishop Ledesma said, are: (a) they'd like to plan their families and space births; (b) they prefer natural family planning and access to information; and (c) they'd want to chose the NFP methods suited to their own circumstances.

The evolving program offered by Church workers down to *kapilya* level in all 19 parishes of the Ipil Prelature is catching nationwide attention. Seminar participants scrambled for Ipil-designed inexpensive "vertical beads." These help poorly educated women to pinpoint with more precision their fertile days.

Catholics should not dictate on government programs for Muslims, Protestants, Buddhists and other faiths. "There's no need for acrimonious debates," Bishop Ledesma said. "Our biggest challenge today may not be to confront government or an international conspiracy. Rather, it is to address the felt needs of thousands of married couples in our rural and urban poor neighborhoods."

The Church opposed contraception by political means, Father Carroll said. But it didn't come up with its own adequate program. "The result is the worst of both worlds: the Church is blamed for the 'population problem' while Catholics use methods which it condemns."

In this stalemate between the Church and the State, the poor are the real losers, Pernia and Father Carroll agreed. Both urged Catholics to soften opposition to the government "cafeteria programs" of all methods, as long as they respect conscience and exclude abortion.

"It'd be sufficient if families can be assisted to have no more children than they want, and to make their decisions responsibly as the Vatican Council indicates," the Ateneo professor stressed.

People's choices interlocking with economic and political stress underscore the need to break out of this stalemate, Pernia said. It is also a chance to break out of this futile stalemate. "If it is missed, history and the Lord of history can be quite unforgiving," Father Carroll warned.

* * *

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Halloween

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

AN ITEM ON OUR FRONT PAGE SAYS OTLEY Beyer, the famous ethnographer and archaeologist, did a research on this country early in the last century and discovered a number of creatures of the dark in Pampanga. Or a widespread belief in them by Kapampangan folk. "It showed," says Robby Tantingco, director of the Holy Angel University's Center for Kapampangan Studies, "that every day was Halloween for the ancient Kapampangan."

The dreaded creatures included: the *macucutud*, the Kapampangan version of the *manananggal*, a witch with bloodshot eyes who could separate torso from lower part of the body; the *magcucusino*, a version of the *mangkukulam*, who could harm a person from a distance; the *maguang anac*, or child snatcher, who preyed on kids, bleeding them to death; the *maglalague*, a soul who refuses to depart this earth but hangs around in search of treasure; the *maglilili*, who leads people astray they are unable to find their way home, etc.

Had Beyer lived to be more than a hundred years old, he might have made a more remarkable ethnographic and archaeological find, which is that, like the movie "Underworld," these creatures of the night have intermingled and bred someone who possesses all their malignant powers. She is another "mac" who currently lives (hopefully temporarily) in a "ma," a palace by the river. Go figure.

But reading that item on Beyer yesterday filled me with a good dose of nostalgia. I grew up in a place not unlike the Pampanga of the early 20th century. Naga City was badly lit in many parts at night, and was home to superstition and/or religion, depending on whether you find the two correlated or not. But those two are powerful ingredients for a horror movie, the one in your mind or on the silver screen. Nothing beats Dracula rising from his grave in thick Transylvanian fog while the church bells are still. What killed vampires wasn't the crucifix, it was the lack of it. Hard for vampires to survive in the harsh light—in more ways than one—of the big city and its resolutely secular ways.

But as I was saying, I grew up in a place not unlike the Pampanga of yore, a place where pretty much all the creatures Beyer describes peeped out from every tree or bush in the dark, waiting to prey on the innocent or unsuspecting. For some reason, they never preyed on drunks, who staggered down the streets in the dead of night (though dead of night in my place was only around midnight or so), loudly wailing their love songs, such as the sounds they made could be called that. Who knows? Maybe our resident vampires drew the line at contaminated blood.

My fearfulness was deepened by horror fare on radio, notably "Gabi ng Lagim"—I still remember the way that title was uttered by a deep baritone voice that echoed away while dogs bayed in the distance presumably at the sight of a full moon—and by comic books like "Lagim Komiks." Nothing like the creaking of a coffin or the flapping of wings to give you a sleepless night. Sound is more frightening than sight, the unknown and unnamed are more terrifying than the seen and the identified. What killed monsters was not the invisibility of them, it was the sight of them—in truly horrible prosthetics.

Occasionally, our neighborhood would thrill to news that an *aswang* had been sighted in some obscure part of town flapping over the roof of a pregnant woman's house. That would set mothers prescribing time-tested antidotes to the thing, fathers prescribing more watchful vigil, and drunks laughing uproariously at the commotion, though more loudly than usual and downing gin more frenetically than ever. But those things have lodged deeply in a corner of my brain. Now and then, I wake up in the dead of night (which is now way past midnight) feeling like I had been thrust into a *gabi ng lagim*.

But looking back, from the safety of a city that never sleeps and a profession that isn't given to it, I've come to realize that belief in the supernatural, or in creatures of the night, is not a source of dread in this country, it is a source of comfort. It is not our harshest form of imprisonment, it is our most effective form of escape. That is probably why horror movies and *aswang* sightings have persisted in this country long after they've died natural deaths in other parts of the world.

At the very least, creatures of the night offer a respite from the boredom of everyday life, particularly in sleepy towns. There's no small excitement at news of an *aswang* sighting, villagers or neighborhood residents springing to life at the prospect of forming a vampire posse. The gossips are set aside for the moment, and everybody comes together for the purpose of protecting the living from the dead. Terrorists do not quite produce that effect.

Which is so because they are too real and not so roundly beaten. That brings us to: At the very most, creatures of the night offer the comfort of clear resolutions. They get to embody all our fears, and destroying them frees us from them. That is not so easily done with real life. The creatures of the day are not so easily killed. Ogres never die because in real life more than in myth, their killers turn into them. Right now we have a "mac" living in a "ma" who flits by with bloodshot eyes from lack of sleep who can separate brain from mouth, saying one thing and doing another; who has been harming an entire people from a distance; who is bleeding the children dry, condemning them to pay a debt even before they are born; who refuses to depart from this earth but continues to look for treasure; who leads people astray they not only do not find their way home, they no longer know what home is. And we seem powerless to do anything about her.

Which makes every day Halloween for today's Filipino.

'One Town, One Product' pushed

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AS THE NATION HONORS ITS DEAD, THE MEDIA have taken a vacation from all the political bickering, filling newspapers, TV and radio with more positive stories for a change. It is so refreshing to get the negative stories out of the front pages and prime time even for a while. Like cold water for a parched throat, or sudden rain showers in a severe drought!

Federico "Dick" Pascual of Star recently made a strong case for media to be a true partner in nation-building, largely by putting all the destructive politics in their proper perspective—away from sensationalism and obsessive preoccupation, and treated as only one aspect of a nation's development. I cannot agree more. A recent SWS survey showed that over 40 percent of Filipinos feel the media have been very negative. The survey result and readers' positive response to the temporary truce on political bickering these days are proof that they want things placed in the right context. The media should heed the people.

* * *

Talking of positive things, one of the best programs of this administration, which should help the country get out of the obsession with politics, as well as rev up the economy in the countryside, is the Department of Trade and Industry's latest project, "One Town, One Product (OTOP)." Pattered after Japan's "One Village, One Product" project, this concept has already been adopted in Thailand, Vietnam, Malawi, Cambodia, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh as an effective tool to alleviate poverty, especially in the rural areas. The local OTOP concept is the latest in a series of moves by the Arroyo administration to move the countryside. These include the return to the local government units of P17.5 billion in Internal Revenue Allotments (IRA) withheld during the Estrada administration, and a P5-billion seed money for GMA's "Kilos Asenso" program.

* * *

Geared to promote entrepreneurship and income opportunities especially in micro, small and medium enterprises, OTOP has identified 15 model products made or grown in 15 localities. These products, time-tested for quality and market attractiveness, will be pushed aggressively here and abroad, as a partnership between the DTI and other departments such as tourism and agriculture, local governments, Tesda and the business sector. The 15 products are: roasted coffee from Kalinga; wood furniture from Rosario, La Union; home furnishings from Baggao, Cagayan; gifts and holiday décor from Cabiao, Gapan, San Isidro and San Antonio, all in Nueva Ecija; paper mâché from Paete, Laguna; *buntal* weaving from Torrijos, Marinduque; ceramics from Tiwi, Albay; bamboo-based products from Maasin, Iloilo; woven rafia from Inabanga, Bohol; mussels from Jiabong, Samar; seaweed from Pagadian City; high-value vegetables from Bukidnon; banana chips from Davao City; fresh bananas from Makilala, North Cotabato; and oil palm from La Paz, Agusan del Sur.

* * *

I understand that the municipalities producing these 15 products have received seed money of P1 million each from the DTI to jump-start the projects. Aside from these 15 pilot products, many others are waiting to be discovered in the foreign markets. Much of OTOP's success, however, will involve the business sector, as it can provide tips on packaging and design (areas where RP products frequently suffer in comparison to our neighbors), as well as on quality control and how to run a large-scale business.

* * *

Last Sunday night, on the dzRH program Cecile Alvarez and I co-host, Armando Bartolome of GMB Franchise Developers and Brendan Yu, a De La Salle business faculty member and Jollibee franchisee, noted that such problems as poor packaging and quality control usually hinder local businesses from going big abroad. At times, it's just seizing the right break. For instance, Cecile wondered why our beautiful indigenous fabrics can't make it big in the world market, whereas other such fabrics from around the world are making enormous headway abroad. OTOP is a step in the right direction and could be the answer to the lack of development in the countryside. But first, attendant problems must be addressed.

* * *

In justifying tighter security measures in the immediate vicinity of Malacañang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita cited a 1985 Supreme Court decision filed by a leader of the August Twenty-One Movement, Reli German, against then Presidential Security Group chief Gen. Santiago Barangan et al. This states that the area 200 meters away from the SC gate falls under "restricted areas." The Palace now invokes the same ruling inasmuch as it is the seat of power. An interesting sidelight is that German, the veteran anti-Marcos activist, has come full circle: now he's defending that SC decision against today's oppositionists.

* * *

Cecile Alvarez's "Radyo Balintataw" began airing last night the radio drama serialization of Roger Olivares' sequel to Jose Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere," which he titled "Noli Me Tangere, 2." The "New Noli" radio drama will run Monday through Friday, throughout November over dzRH from 9 to 9:30 p.m. as part of the commemoration of our "heroes' month." "Noli 2" transports Rizal's characters to a contemporary setting, but find themselves still battling, as in Rizal's days, the vices of corruption, lust, ambition and greed for power and wealth, even as some of them still embody youthful idealism, pure love and nationalism. The cast includes Ibarra (played by Phil Cruz), Maria Clara (Eloisa Cruz Canlas), Gen. Ibarra (Tony Angeles), Ms Ibarra and Lynda (Nellie Natividad Valdez). The radio adaptation was done by Noli Dumlao, musical score by Froilan Malimban, sound effects by Vernie Bascao, and technical supervision by Bong Muyar. For OFWs abroad, "Noli 2" can be heard simultaneously through a webcast accessed at www.eradioportal.com.

Lies and deception

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

CREATING RIPPLES THROUGH THE REPRODUCTIVE health community, but surprisingly causing no big waves elsewhere, was the speech delivered by President Macapagal-Arroyo at the General Assembly of the United Nations last Sept. 15 as part of a "high-level" summit of world leaders to review the Millennium Development Goals.

The controversy I'm referring to has to do with the portion of the speech on the government's family planning policy, which I'm reprinting below:

"We expect the United Nations to respect the deep Catholicism of the vast majority of the Filipino people. The funding given by the United Nations to our national government for reproductive health shall be dedicated to train married couples in a natural family planning technology which the World Health Organization has found effective compared to artificial contraceptives. The Population Council of New York has found that artificial contraception contributes only 2 percent to the decline of birth rates while the combination of improving the economic condition of the family, urbanization and breastfeeding contributes 98 percent."

The statement is startling, comical and scandalous on many levels—but mainly because it holds up the President, as well as our government, to ridicule on a global level. It's bad enough that the President would deliver a speech, at the UN General Assembly no less, that violates the most basic tenets of human rights and the progress made in re-thinking and responding to the sexual and reproductive health and rights needs of people everywhere. But to be caught lying outright—or making misstatements at best—on such an important occasion where the world's experts on health and population concerns are present? Whoever wrote the speech (and then approved it) must be fired—or made to resign!

* * *

FOR starters, it turns out that the President and/or her speechwriter appear to have misread, if they did not deliberately distort, WHO data on the effectiveness of natural family planning methods compared to other modern contraceptive methods.

Dr. Jean Marc Olive, WHO representative in the Asian region, clarifies that most studies done on the failure rate of various contraceptive methods show that "the failure rate of natural family planning is much higher than other modern contraceptives. Many studies exist and the results are very similar." One such study, published in "Epigee Birth Control Guide" and cited by Olive, shows that NFP methods based on fertility awareness and periodic abstinence have a combined "perfect use failure rate" of 12.5 percent, compared to other modern contraceptives such as oral contraceptives (0.3 percent), injectables (0.3 percent), and the IUD (0.8 percent).

"Perfect use failure rate," by the way, refers to the percentage of pregnancies which occur if the method is used perfectly and consistently.

* * *

AS for the assertion the President made that contraception or family planning using modern methods contributes "only 2 percent" to the decline of birth rates, the Population Council, to which she attributed this "fact," itself clarifies, in a letter to Philippine Ambassador to the UN Lauro Baja, that the "claim rests on a misunderstanding" and that "no study conducted by the Population Council has reached this conclusion."

Population Council president Peter Donaldson writes that "although there is some disagreement among scholars about the contribution of family planning to the decline of fertility, the consensus is that its role is much higher than 2 percent."

There are other disturbing aspects to the President's statement, to my mind. For one, her insistence on dedicating the bulk of funding for reproductive health to "train married couples in a natural family planning technology" violates the right of individuals to information and counseling on all safe and effective methods of family planning so they can make informed and responsible decisions. For another, does this policy mean that NFP training will be given only to married couples? What of single men and women in need of family planning counseling and services?

Does this signal the opening salvo in a concerted attack on our reproductive rights? Well, I have news for you: The battle has long been joined, and the President has shown no qualms about using whatever weapons are at her disposal, including lies and deception.

* * *

"TURNING Silver to Gold for Women's Health" is the theme of the Women's Health Care Foundation's 25th anniversary celebration this year.

With a network of clinics around the country, WHCF is a pioneering institution in the provision of women-centered health services and advocacy for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

To mark its silver anniversary, WHCF is conducting a search for "Silver Stars for Women's Health," which are "organizations, agencies, institutions, or individuals who have significantly contributed to the promotion and protection of women's health, who have been given any national award for their work, and who are emerging as new or potential leaders or champions in the movement for women's health."

Awards will be given to individuals or organizations for the 10 elements of reproductive health. Two awardees will be selected per reproductive health element: one for service or advocacy, and the other for education/training or research, while awards will also be given to individuals in media (radio, television, print, documentary), as well as the best performing barangay partner of WHCF.

Nominations may be sent to: Women's Health Care Foundation, 1589 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, 1104; Fax: 02-9240717; or E-mail: whcf@whcf.net, whcf@mozcom.com. Deadline for nominations is Nov. 10.

Keeping fit at 68

HIGH BLOOD

Vilma Regidor Taroy

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

TURNING SIXTY-SOMETHING HAS NEVER dampened my enthusiasm to live each day as it comes and make everything about that day as pleasurable and as memorable as possible. Despite the occurrence of cellular degenerative phenomena, cardio-vascular and pulmonary disorders and varied psychological changes in this senescent stage of my life, I always find reason to thank God for this gift of growing old.

Growing older has heightened my awareness of countless body aches and limitations. Our trip to China a year ago showed how restricted body movements can zap one's desire and eagerness to see and enjoy new places. Squatting in a toilet seat that was literally just a hole in the floor while the train was running full speed can really test one's will power and creativity. And why do travel agents assign elderly tourists who can hardly climb narrow stairs to the uppermost berths?

The years of putting off visits to the dentist have finally caught up on me. My teeth were scaled and polished. I had amalgam fillings, root canal therapy and incisors-capping. My sister-in-law suggested that I choose porcelain because it will last a lifetime. A 68-year-old opting for a lifetime of porcelain-capped front teeth?

Only very few women are blessed to age gracefully. Many spend 20 years holding on to their youth. Some hit the gym taking strength-training or weight lifting exercises. Others go for belly-dancing.

To minimize premature aging skin and fatty deposits around the eyes, I bought a small bottle of an expensive eye therapy gel because "it helps increase hydration around the eye area encouraging the appearance of fresher, younger-looking skin." I waited for over a year to see the effect of this remarkable formula. "Stop kidding yourself," said my younger sister, a nurse.

And have you heard about this lady who wanted to achieve a wide-eyed, innocent look? The cosmetic surgeon who had just opened her beauty salon obliged with a slit, a nip, a tuck on her drooping eyelids and sagging eye bags. This lady got her wish. She now sleeps with one eye wide open! She sued the doctor.

Although hypertension has limited my early morning brisk walks with my husband, it has not deterred my determination to "oil my knees" every day. Studies show that walking and moving about will keep the knees moist and lubricated, thus preventing the stiffening of joints. In the confines of our small garden, I walk back and forth, go up one step and down one step, bend a little to gather the roses, rearrange the pebbles in landscape fashion or shoo away the birds that have long wanted to take over a shaded portion of our backyard.

Sometime ago, I read about the incalculable good that comes with prayer breaks. Amid the hurried and frenzied rush of things, all we have to do is still our thoughts and offer a prayer of thanksgiving. A prayer break serves as a quick pick-me-up after the usual stress and strain of household chores, health problems, distressing moments and other concerns. Do try it. It works!

Who says the art of letter-writing is a thing of the past? It can never be replaced by texting or any other form of Cyberspace communication. Because it's more of something coming straight from the heart when one writes. There's nothing that warms my heart more than writing and receiving letters.

I have nine classmates (from our high school batch '53) who live in Metro Manila and with whom I was reunited only when we celebrated our 50th anniversary. Since then we have bonded together, celebrating birthdays or treating other classmates coming from Bicol or abroad for lunch. We keep track of each other by landline or by cell phone.

In a couple of years, all of us will be 70 years old. We do not walk as fast. We do not eat as much. But we do look forward to the times when we could roar with laughter over jokes, exchange simple gifts, watch movies or plan for the yearly reunions.

We even sell each other raffle tickets. Although we eat sparingly, we have tasted Japanese, Italian, Spanish, Chinese, Filipino and Continental dishes. We have had unforgettable times while lunching out. Once I was horrified to see a greenish-white worm underneath a mustard leaf in a large bowl of *sinigang sa miso*. We ordered *lengua* and was served one thinly sliced piece covered with thick sauce on a large platter. The oxtail *kare-kare* had nary a trace of a tail.

We share funny and embarrassing moments when over the din of small talk from other customers, each of us would hand over to the waiter our senior citizen card for the customary 20 percent discount. And we take pictures to record the occasion. One classmate even asks for a table napkin or paper placemat as souvenir.

A year ago, after 51 years I met our high school chaplain, Rev. Jose T. Sanchez, now a cardinal and residing in Rome. He is 84 years old, travels a lot and is still an indefatigable chess player. These lines from his letter which I received some weeks ago aptly sum up our perspective about ourselves as we draw near the end-stage of our life: "I am profoundly grateful to the Lord for preserving my health. We are really pilgrims in this world. We are here temporarily and our permanent abode is where God is everything."

Vilma Regidor Taroy, 68, retired from the Division of City Schools, Manila, in 2001. She is now a full-time housekeeper and writes occasionally to share her view that a person should get better as he grows older.

My finest treasure

YOUNG BLOOD

Karissa Javier Torio

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

ALL THROUGHOUT MY CHILDHOOD YEARS, MY FATHER prepared me for his tragic death. I don't know if it was premonition since it is among my earliest memories. Maybe he was joking or maybe he just wanted to see me close to tears.

And then he died. He had been choked and stabbed—that was the most I could get from my mom. He was brought to the hospital and lived for four days before finally breathing his last.

It was the worst day of my life and for everyone in our family. After almost a decade, I still look back to it with a painful heart. Father had no estate, no land, not even money in the bank. But he left me something more than wealth. He left me valuable lessons, little things that he instilled in me from the time I was young. And those simple things he shared with me are all I need to understand the complexity of life today.

First, he taught me to believe in magic. Growing up with him was an adventure. Often I would be superwoman flying across the house while his arms supported me. He could produce bubble gum or candy out of nowhere after saying some abracadabra. And he wrote me a letter once, pretending he was Santa Claus.

I've outgrown such things now, but I still never fail to appreciate the most trivial things like the rising of the sun or the blooming of a rosebud. Everything is magic, indeed, created by a magician far greater than my father. And I can't help but be in awe of His power.

The second thing father taught me was to always do my best. I remember coming home from school in a foul mood because I didn't get a perfect score in my exam. I thought he would get mad at me, but when he saw my test paper, he told me in a gentle voice that he would always be happy and proud of what I accomplished for as long as I did my best.

Now I seldom get perfect scores and I'm far from being the perfectionist little brat I used to be. But my father's words are part of my everyday life. I put my best into everything I do. Most people may not appreciate it, but what the heck, I know someone is smiling at me from up above.

The third lesson I learned from my father was to appreciate my blessings and share them with others. One time, we were at the carnival and I was having a ride on those little swaying cars into which you insert tokens. Dad noticed a boy looking anxiously at one of the rides. He lifted the boy and put him on the little car and inserted a token.

He was always nice to everyone. In the playground, he would push my swing and everyone else's. And from this I learned to share good things, no matter how big or small.

I also learned from my father that if I have something nice to say, I must say it. As a kid, I used to sing a lot, but even then I knew that I wasn't a good singer. One time, I was singing in my room when he suddenly appeared on the door smiling and clapping his hands. He flattered me by saying I was good. Although I knew he was lying, I was proud of his compliment (and now I can sing shamelessly in karaoke bars).

Sometimes he would play word factory with me and my sister and deliberately lose the game. But then he always went out of his way to make others feel better about themselves.

Another thing he taught me was to always let loved ones know they are loved. Countless times he surprised us by bringing home fancy toys or taking us out at a moment's notice. He would dedicate songs on the radio to my mom. And he would never leave home without telling us, "Take care" or ""I love you," and sending flying kisses to me and my siblings.

Friendships were very important to him, and so were family ties. I remember attending all sorts of celebration. And it amuses me now how our family used to be so close to other relatives. We'd go out of town with them and have lunch or dinner every weekend at some relatives' house. His friends would drop by our house to chat with him over coffee. And at his funeral, I was amazed by the number of people who came and told me over and over again that he was a very good man.

Another thing he taught me was to help others whenever I can. On several occasions, he came home with blood on the seat covers of the taxi he was driving. One time, it was because of a pregnant woman. Another time, it was because he had brought to the hospital a fellow driver who had been stabbed. I can remember the strain on his face as he told these things to my mother.

One time, he himself was hurt in a hold-up and he could not drive himself to the hospital. Another concerned taxi driver brought him to the nearest one. It strengthened his belief in the saying that good begets good.

Follow your heart, he once told me. I never understood why he continued to drive a taxi. It's not that I had anything against it, but he was overqualified for the job. He came from a good family, he had finished college and the economy wasn't so bad then that he couldn't have found a different job. But he kept driving taxis despite the disapproval of the people around him. He said he didn't want to be stuck in an office doing paperwork. And I believed him. My dad was a people person. And he followed his heart to the very end.

Another lesson I learned from him was to be not afraid to say sorry. During his last hours, he wrote letters to several people, though we were able to get only the one for my grandfather, unfortunately. In that letter, three words were remarkably written in a childlike scribble, indicating how much he was in pain. And the three words were: "I am sorry."

The last lesson—and probably the most important one—I didn't get directly from him, but from his life—the way he lived it and the way he died. I often ask myself why things are the way the are. Why do people get killed for no reason at all? Why do babies live for a day and die the next day? Why do people who have lost their minds continue to live? My father's death brought me the sudden realization that some people live not to find meaning in their lives but to help others find meaning in theirs.

I'm not sure if my father found what he was searching for or if he was searching for anything at all. But there's one thing I'm sure of: he has helped me in my quest and he continues to do so. And because of that, I can say I have found the finest treasure, and I thank my dad for it.

Karissa Javier Torio, 20, is a 5th year Computer Engineering student at the Technological Institute of the Philippines.

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An act of insolence and deceit

APPARENTLY, SECURITY OF tenure has just been redefined by the government. It seems that these days, security of tenure is equivalent to getting the boot—and getting it without a word of explanation or two except for a short "thank you" note.

Sadly for Juan Miguel Luz, he has just been the victim of this uncalled for redefinition by the government.

Luz, being a career executive service officer (Ceso), has security of tenure as stipulated by the law which states that "Cesos, regardless of the position they occupy or the rank level to which they are appointed to, are considered as permanent employees and are guaranteed security of tenure in the CES."

The right to security of tenure entails that a regular employee shall remain employed unless his or her services are terminated for just or authorized cause and after observance of due process of law. As such, Luz cannot be removed from his position unless there is a clear, acceptable reason for doing so. In Luz's case, however, neither was there a just cause for termination or due process of law—there was only a one-sentence "thank you" letter coupled with up-and-down media statements from Malacañang regarding his status as education undersecretary. In just a matter of days, Malacañang has successfully delivered conflicting media releases: from declaring Luz terminated as undersecretary; to announcing his reassignment to another office; to allowing him to stay on in his position and then to stating "personal reasons" as to why President Macapagal-Arroyo has opted to remove him from his office. Truly an act of insolence and deceit at its finest.

As public servants, we in the Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PSLINK) abhor the government's clear violation of the security of tenure of its employees. We absolutely abhor the government's obvious efforts to confuse the people and conceal its real motivations. Unless the government finally gives a concrete statement on Luz's status and reveal its real rationale, we have every reason to believe that the government has sacked him mainly for his refusal to honor three post-dated checks worth P15 million as payola for Rep. Antonio Diaz's pro-GMA stance in the impeachment vote. We have every reason to believe that this is all but a clear proof of GMA's purging of her detractors, including those who merely perform their duties according to the precepts of good governance and moral integrity.

PSLINK supports Undersecretary Luz's decision to stand against this current efforts of the administration to derail what is right and just. We will fight tooth and nail in order to protect and uphold the rights of civil servants, especially respectable public servants like Luz.

—ANNIE ENRIQUEZ-GERON,
general secretary,
Public Services Labor
Independent Confederation
(PSLINK), 15 Clarion Lily St.,
Saint Dominic Subd. I,
Congressional Avenue,
Project 6, Quezon City

Clarifying some Concom issues

AS THE ELECTED CHAIR OF THE Consultative Commission, I'd like to respond to the Oct. 26 column of Neal Cruz.

1. Cruz says that the commission was illegally created by the President. This issue is before the Supreme Court; let's just wait for its judgment.

2. Cruz says the President is not supposed to be involved in the writing of a new Constitution for obvious reasons. The job is exclusive to a Constitutional Convention or to Congress sitting as a constituent assembly. By implication, he is saying that any person or group cannot propose any constitutional amendments or revisions to Congress or a Constitutional Convention. He is wrong.

The process may be assisted by the President or the Concom or by any other interested persons or organization. In fact, every day the Concom receives proposals from concerned persons and groups. The same thing happened in the writing of the 1973 Constitution by the 1971 Constitutional Convention, where various draft constitutions and provisions were submitted to the convention by interested parties, such as the UP Law Center and Philconsa. And President Marcos made known some of his ideas and wishes to the convention delegates. I should know. I was the secretary of the 1971 Constitutional Convention. President Quezon influenced the writing of the 1935 Constitution as well.

3. Cruz quotes three or four commissioners who said that the Concom should not take a position on the main issues of the form of government or the structure of the Republic before it consults the people. But in fact we had discussed these issues at the committee level and in plenary, and we had become very conversant with the issues and our preferences. Most of those who objected to our advocacy of the preferred options lost in our debates. Among them were the two quoted by Cruz as saying that the Concom is a "rubber stamp" of Ms Arroyo.

4. Cruz pontificates that, as Concom chair, I am "the biggest stamp of all." He further says that I am "riding on the prestige of the UP presidency but he is doing the state university a disservice." My six years of service as UP president was only a short part of my work and experience as a teacher and scholar here and abroad.

I'd rather leave it to many more scholars, students and citizens to assess my character and what I have done since I began teaching in UP in 1950. I am simply responding to a call to serve my country at a crucial time in our history.

Charter change transcends partisan politics in our polarized nation. It has basic, long-term consequences. To be legitimate, it must consider and respect individual preferences, differences and prejudices, and be based on consensus expressed by the people in a national plebiscite.

May the national endeavor to reform our institutions and processes of governance engage most of our people in the months ahead and be blessed by God.

—JOSE V. ABUEVA,
president, Kalayaan College,
84 A. Barangka,
Riverbanks Center,
Marikina City

'Butcher' is good soldier

I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan. He is a good soldier, an officer and a gentleman. And I admire him for being focused on and dedicated to his job. I salute him. I wish we had more generals like him.

In his areas of assignment, he has always been accused of being behind the killing of members and leaders of militant groups. The daily newspapers and periodicals always sensationalize such killings, blaming them on the general.

Militants again blamed Palparan for the death of four activists in different parts of Central Luzon, which is now his new area of assignment. But those killings happened before his assignment to that area.

His assignment as commander of the 7th Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army is commendable. Palparan's record of service and his achievements have been proven. The crusade against insurgency is already his commitment. Those who continue to malign and accuse him of any wrongdoing are only wasting their efforts.

To call him a "Butcher of Activists" is not only improper; but a disgusting comment for he is a good soldier. Perhaps, those groups which want to destroy the good general are the ones affected most by the military operations in the area. Palparan's leadership only gets better and no amount of name-calling can affect him. His men are focused on doing their job as soldiers.

Carry on the good work, sir. We are behind you and supporting your idealism and professionalism.

—JUN B. SALES,
Naujan, Mindoro Oriental

BIRD FLU WATCH
AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE PASSENGERS ARE REQUIRED TO DISINF THEIR FOOTW ON THE

PDI PHOTO

AIRPORT authorities have begun taking measures to keep bird flu out of RP

Environmental destruction may have caused bird flu

THE EDITORIAL "TIME TO PREpare" (PDI, 10/11/05) restates one of the big environmental problems of the 21st century—the relationship of human disease, environment change, biodiversity and evolution.

Birds have been migrating to their favored roosts for millennia, harboring pathogens. And over the course of evolutionary time, many of their populations became resistant to those agents of disease. In most cases, the diseases belonged to the birds alone—until humans gave the pathogens opportunity to cross species.

Many human diseases have their roots in our history of modifying natural habitat and exploiting biodiversity for agriculture and other needs. Diseases such as dengue, malaria and tuberculosis made the jump to us, humans, due to our close contact with the birds and mammals we use for food and as pets. We cannot prevent birds from migrating. But we can prevent more damage and alteration to their roosting habitats, the destruction of which forces them to move nearer to human habitation.

The task at hand is to prevent a horrible flu pandemic. This would require (1) short-term medical and veterinary interventions, such as vaccination, training of medical doctors to manage flu patients, and stockpiling of antivirals; and (2) a more long-term intervention in which we preserve important bird areas and prevent or minimize human activity in these areas.

Also, another problem we have is that migratory birds, especially those that are tolerant of urban habitats, also roost in cities. These birds once favored undisturbed habitats but they have since adapted to our urban environment. Because of these birds, our urban centers could become a focus of infection as what happened with the outbreak of the West Nile virus in the United States in 1999. It is possible that migrant birds from Africa, or infected birds imported through New York, brought the infection to the United States. The first signs of infection were noted when birds at New York's Central Park began dying. There is a need to closely study and monitor migrant birds in urban areas.

Regarding the Candaba Marsh and other wetlands, it may be more sensible to have parts of Candaba reverted to their original state as a natural wetland. In these areas, domestic ducks and chickens shouldn't be allowed to run free, and hunting should not be allowed. Commercial poultry raising could be situated far from the wildlife reserve.

The feared bird flu pandemic reminds us that, in changing natural habitats, we run the risk of being infected by more emerging diseases. Global pandemics are both health and environment problems. There is an urgent need for health and environment practitioners to work closely in order to prevent a health catastrophe.

—BENJAMIN VALLEJO JR.,
Research on the Urban Ecology
and Biogeography of Birds
in Metro Manila,
Institute of Environmental
Science and Meteorology,
College of Science,
University of the Philippines,
Diliman, Quezon City

A replay of last days of dictatorship

THE WATER-CANNON DISPERSAL of people praying and singing on the streets of Manila reminds me of similar images during the darkest days of the Marcos dictatorship.

Former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Bishops Deogracias Iñiguez and Antonio Tobias, former Sen. Wigberto Tañada, former Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo and Fr. Robert Reyes—remember these names. Remember these names because they are our contemporary versions of nationalists—like former Senators Jose W. Diokno, Lorenzo Tañada, and publisher Chino Roces were in their time, when again and again they held rallies on Mendiola Bridge to symbolize their defiance of the Marcos dictatorship.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is very busy, indeed. She is very busy putting out fires—impeachment, *jueteng*, Venable, NorthRail. She is also very busy feeding the pigs—her 2 a.m cell phone calls to congressmen during the impeachment hearings are now legendary.

Then and now, the ancient Greek playwrights are right: "They whom the gods wish to destroy, they first make mad."

—DANTON R. REMOTO,
associate professor,
English School of Humanities,
Ateneo de Manila University,
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

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INQBox

Do you agree with the dispersal and use of water cannons against a procession by the clergy and citizens in Mendiola the other week?

am i seeing a pre-martial law scenario here?
i am against d inhumane act taken against those in the procession!
—jeofrey abalos, 19, *binmaley*

n0, i t0tally n0t agree because many people are hurt especially the old people
—ginelyn sanchez, 16, *davao city*

no!! madam gloria kung wala un edsa 2, nakaupo ba u jan sa malacañang ngayon? Di na u marun0ng tumingin sa pinangalingan mo..
—bryan parreñas, 22, iloilo

yes. It was actually an unruly rally disguised as procession. What a shame using GOD 2 promote selfish motives
—l. pallones, 63, *davao city*

D dispersal & use of h2o cannons vs. a procession by D clergy & citizens iN Mendiola, iS like taking D green grass away from D cows!
—dorbin cabelin, 21, *Carigara*

the police should allow those rallyists 2 march in mendiola..
—Gerald Relampagos, 30, *davao city*

NO! dahil hindi cla naging makatao sa ginagawa nla, nkalimutan na ba nila na tayo ay nsa demokratikong bansa, at karapatan yon eh..
—Zenaida caguioa, *urdaneta city*

I agree n disagree no permit, no rally. If u have permit, do so within d tenets of d permits
—Rivelina J.Daen, 33, *Caloocan City*

hindi, dahil hndi ito makatarungan --maraming nasaktan sa ginawa nila.
—Jurilex Maglinte, *Tandag S.D.S.*

i strongly disagree. my heart bleeds 4 d victims of such savagery!
—Jeofrey abalos, 19, *binmaley pangasinan*

I agree n disagree my message 2 d protesters is ought 2 be responsible n think of d whole country n not themselves
—Jose Cydel S. Daen, 39, *Caloocan City*

Those water cannons should be turned back on the perpetrators to wash them of their iniquities!
—Rafael G. Cecilio, 65, *Cagayan de Oro*

yes dats d best way to disperse undispersable protesters better dan using bullets
—fernando laus, 31, *baguio city*

i don't agree, as it is a clear manifestation of pure harassment, maltreatment and martial rule of arroyo govt.
—polly dela pena, 37, *batangas*

Agree?! Hell NO!! and to those who agree with that (dispersal & use of water cannons), Hell to Them!!
—Kim, 30, *Albay*

yes! sad dat d clergy & lawmakers shd be 1st 2 break d law "no permit, no rally"; how can u believe & follow them?
—grace guiua, *san jose*

duh hindi kya, nagsasayang lang cla, plz naman n0h, bawat patak ng water dis tym s0brang mahal na, taz yan pang ginagawa nila?!?
—Liway, 15, *GENSAN*

d dispersal was a blatant and shameless display of violence, only mentally-deranged people will find it as acceptable.
—a.espiritu, 25, *mandaluyong*

no, procession or demonstration, at mendiola or edsa,
by religious, oppositions, rightists or leftists groups.
no, this is just 1 of d many repressive actions of this govt that mirrors its countless sins against d country. no, in fact, dispersals should not be implemented at all, bearing in mind that to rally is a basic human right.
—arnold mendez, 39, *maragondon, cavite*

OPINION
Unlike some senators at her time, GMA is not a grandstander. She seldom talks but can deliver a 'knock-out punch' at the right time, when needed most for the country. I recall one time, GMA was the only one from among her colleagues in the Senate who delivered a privilege speech, discussed at length, and explained in depth in a layman's language the pros and cons of GLOBALIZATION, NAFTA, AFTA, and other related economic topics affecting the Philippines. She saved the Senate from doldrums at the time when national and world Economics issues were the subject matter in the Senate Hall.
I also recall GMA worked for the government as head of the GTEB.. I am not aware of any negative issues against her administration of the GTEB, reason probably why she was included in the senatorial ticket, which she topped at that time.
The Philippines's main problem is economic recovery, stalled by too much political squabbles. Why can't we allow Pres. GMA the chance to lead the country for she is an economist by heart and educational background. None of our past presidents have good background in economics in training and education, unlike GMA.
GMA already apologized to the nation. The House of Representatives already junked the issue on impeachment. The unruly street protests for her to resign lost the support of the level-minded and peace-loving citizenry. Her administration is now amenable to power sharing with the opposition. What else do we want? I think it is already becoming unfair to the majority who supported GMA (who want her) to continue leading the Philippines in its economic recovery.
—Macario C. Flores, Jr., *Arleta, CA, USA*

We want Gloria out, but if we will run again by TRAPOS (Estrada {including his wives and 2 corrupt sons}, Binay, Maceda, et. al), no way! If we allow these "noisy" politicians, both from the government and the opposition, to run our country again, we will never end the vicious cycle of CORRUPTION. They are just making a lot of noise for their own self interest and greed for fame, fortune and money. MAKONSYENSYA NAMAN KAYO, MAAWA KAYO SA MGA PILIPINONG NAGUGUTOM AT NAGHIHIRAP!
—richie dela cruz

Where is our pride now? Fifteen years since I proudly told my Singaporean boss "Give us fifteen years to catch up w/ your country's economy". He replied then "Since I have a business here, of course I hope so. But from the looks of your government, I don't think so. Maybe in 100 years!" He may be right... I find difficulty in attending our network's quarterly meeting overseas--
Do you know how humiliating it is to answer questions regarding problems in our country? Questions that you cannot find any answer, growth timetable that you cannot predict. I still believe we --Filipinos are a great people, but where is our pride now? Is the problem really w/ the government, or with ourselves? Politicians are a very tiny portion of our population, why do we let them drag us into this humiliation?
—Ma. Luz Caliwag

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GMA orders Diwalwal families moved

DAVAO CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday ordered authorities to plan the relocation of at least 100 families living near a gold-rich site on Mt. Diwata in Monkayo, Compostela Valley where 11 miners were killed and at least 13 others were trapped in a cave-in.

Ms Arroyo arrived here yesterday and held a briefing with key officials on the mining disaster that struck the JB Management Corp.

But while authorities have yet to determine what really caused the collapse of the Sunshine tunnel owned and managed by JB Mining Corp., search and rescue teams still have to retrieve 13 other trapped miners.

"We wanted to have a strong military presence there," the President said, adding that this can be a way to prevent bloodshed over mining claims.

It is only under Ms Arroyo's term that the government took over mining operations on Mt. Diwata, which for the last two decades has been unregulated and had sparked several feuds among rival companies, mining disasters due to crude mining methods and environmental degradation.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan, in his report to the President, said New People's Army rebels continue to have access to Mt. Diwata and continue demanding taxes from small-scale miners.

"They (NPA) have collectors in the area," Adan said.

The President then asked Adan: "Can we stop the collection?"

Adan told the President, "We are working on that Ma'am."

Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, Ms Arroyo's adviser on peace and order, recommended that the government stick to the earlier agreed plan of action on Mt. Diwata.

He said the plan was to "help the small-scale miners" who have long been dependent on the mining industry for a living.

"It's a sound plan and it's just a matter of implementation," Duterte said, adding however that the plan is still "to protect the government interest and that is paramount."

Duterte said while the government has taken over the mining site, it has not generated income from it.

The President was also given updates on the progress of the National Resources Mining Development Corp. (NRMDC), a government-owned corporation which has the authority to mine Mt. Diwata within a specified area.

The NRMDC has entered a "service contract" with the small-scale miners, through an ore-sharing scheme.

This plan of the government was introduced to the small-scale miners, which they readily accepted because they can now enjoy legality in their mining operations. The revenue generated will help rebuild Mt. Diwalwal and provide basic services. *Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Silliman U prepared to handle bird flu

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—THE SILLIMAN University Medical Center Foundation Inc. (SUMCFI) is preparing to activate a system that it used to handle cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) for possible bird flu cases.

Dr. Walden Ursos, university physician, said preparations for the bird flu virus are similar to arrangements made for SARS because of the similar nature of the two viruses.

He revealed the plan as President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered a stepped up information campaign on bird flu as part of measures to prevent the entry of the deadly virus in the country.

The Philippines remains the only country in the region that is not infected by the deadly strain of influenza but Health Secretary Francisco Duque warned last week that it was just "a matter of time" before avian flu reaches the Philippines.

Ursos said a single case of bird flu in the country would be enough to activate the system in the hospital, even if the virus is confined to remote areas of the Philippines.

The SUMCFI also has an isolation room outside the hospital's main building, which is intended for patients with highly contagious diseases like SARS and bird flu.

Ursos, however, played down the bird flu threat, saying SARS is still far deadlier than bird flu and yet, the Philippines was able to control the virus and prevented what would have become an epidemic.

Ursos also said overseas contract workers could be potential bird flu carriers. "They're highly at risk because they travel in and out of the country. The chance of infection is always there."

Bird flu, Ursos said, manifests like common influenza. Most human deaths have been linked to contact with sick birds.

"Bird flu may have infected the people through the cooking of infected birds. It's a viral infection in the birds' respiratory system," he said.

HOME SWEET HOME
A farmer and a young child take cover from the heat at a picket line at the Hacienda Luisita, which is suffering from a long drawn labor strike.
RAFFY LERMA

Group says pollution in Manila Bay not likely to happen in Subic

OLONGAPO CITY—A GROUP leading the conservation of Subic Bay said pollution is a real threat but efforts are underway to prevent Subic's water from ending up as polluted as Manila Bay.

George Lorenzana, chair of the Greater Subic Bay Tourism Bureau (GSBTB), said a community-wide conservation program is being implemented to preserve and improve the state of Subic Bay both as a world-class tourist destination and an important trade waterway.

He said the project is being coordinated with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Environment Management Bureau.

"While we recognize that the threat of pollution to Subic Bay is real, we're not just moping about the situation. In fact, we are already taking concrete actions to prevent that possibility from happening," Lorenzana said.

Earlier, an INQUIRER source at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority said Subic Bay might end up as polluted as Manila Bay in 10 years if the waste discharges and other pollutants thrown into it remain unchecked and without a sewerage system implemented for Olongapo City.

Lorenzana said a study by Dr. Gerardo Parco, an assistant professor in environmental engineering at the University of the Philippines, concluded that Subic Bay's water "is still considered clean and healthy as [shown] by the presence of diverse marine life."

"The case of Manila Bay won't happen in Subic," Lorenzana said.

Lorenzana and SBMA Ecology Center head Amethya dela Llana said the condition of Subic Bay is different from Manila Bay, where urbanization and heavy industries greatly contributed to waste discharge and pollution.

"In the case of Subic, only light to medium industrial firms have located here and the ecology center regulates and closely monitors the compliance of these locators with existing environmental rules and regulations, including waste management and disposal," Dela Llana said.

Still, Dela Llana said, the SBMA has adopted conservation plans, including a coastal management program to help protect and preserve the bay.

"We are not talking about rehabilitation here. Several independent studies made by various organizations on Subic Bay only recommend preservation and enhancement programs," she said.

SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza assured that the SBMA would address the problem and institute measures to stop pollution in the bay.

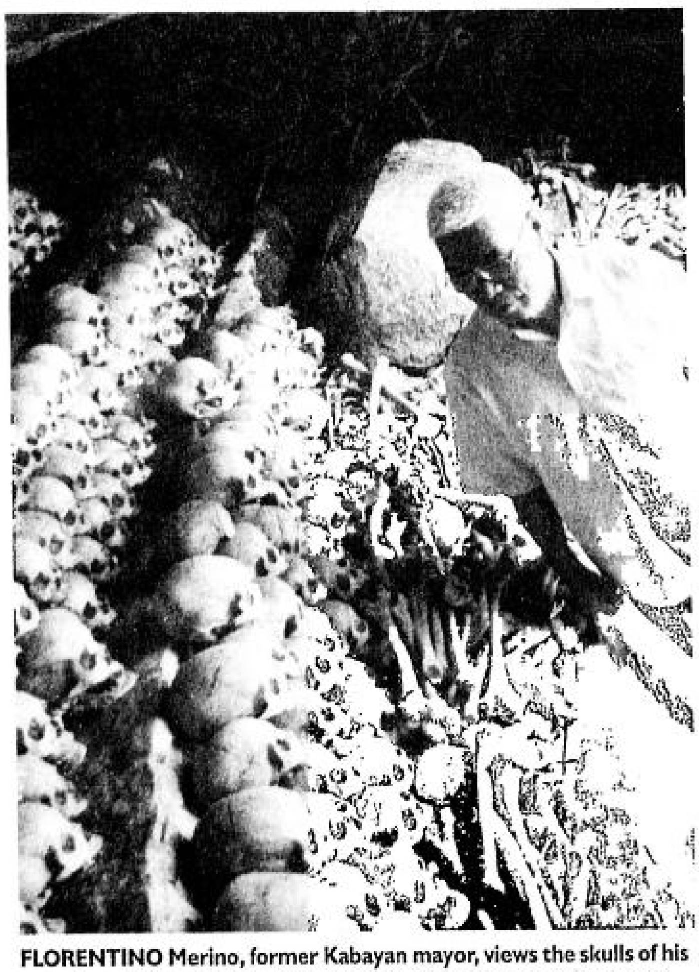
Parco was the same consultant cited by Jaime Garcia, Subic water assistant general manager, as among those who briefed members of GSBTB and who revealed the state of the bay based on a study they made for the water firm.

Garcia said a study prepared by Parco's group showed how water moves around the bay and where trash, garbage and other polluting materials come from.

"The productivity of the coastal waters around Olongapo is under constant threat of deterioration due to uncontrolled dumping of agricultural and animal wastes and sewage from the riverside residents, which find their way into the rivers and canals and ultimately spread into the coastal water of the bay," an initial study from Parco's group said.

While noting the difficulty of controlling residents from dumping their garbage into the rivers, the group recommended patrols on riverbanks to reprimand residents who throw their garbage into the rivers.

The study also recommended the installation of screen gates at the mouths of rivers to filter and collect the solid wastes and prevent it from reaching coastal water. It also proposed the installation of a sanitary sewerage system on residences, resorts and hotels to prevent the discharge of sewage directly into the rivers. *Patrick Roxas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



FLORENTINO Merino, former Kabayan mayor, views the skulls of his ancestors. This cave was excavated in 1971 and has since become a repository for the community's dead. EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Ibaloi burial cave becomes symbol of love

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

KABAYAN, BENGUET—THE OPDAS CAVE, one of the most popular burial caves in this town, is a testament to the Ibalois' enduring love and respect for the dead.

Piles of around 180 skulls and human bones are neatly arranged inside.

These, however, do not strike any fear among locals and visitors.

Former Mayor Florentino Merino, 75, said his cousin, Baban Berong, decided to arrange the skulls and skeletons of common Kabayan residents in a single cave in the 1970s. Unlike the wealthy residents (*kadangyan*) who were mummified and placed in mummy caves in their deaths, the remains of poor and ordinary residents were interred in mass graves or caves and in cliffs around the town.

Merino said Berong initiated this as the town was celebrating the return of stolen mummies at that time.

Accounts here said Berong, one of the town's experts on mummies, discovered the cave in his backyard while building a house in an area where opdas trees grew.

Berong, Kabayan's authority on mummies and the mummification process, died at the age of 83 in September this year.

Mummified cats

Merino, author of "The Kabayan Mummies and the Bendian," said Berong discovered only 20 skulls and sets of human bones when he started to explore the cave in 1971.

"But before the cave was explored, the people of Kabayan knew that it was a mass burial site," Merino said.

He said Berong also found two mummified cats among the skeletons.

Merino retrieved the cats and kept it among his collections he called "Kinapol memorabilia." The cats were the only known mummified pets found in Kabayan.

In the old days, Merino said rich childless couples were mummified and buried in caves with their mummified pets.

Kenneth Kelcho, a Kabayan resident who has researched on the town's mummies, said the Opdas cave used to keep mummies before it was used as a mass burial site.

Merino said it was Berong's interest on mummies that led him to collect skulls from other caves.

Ritual

"He looked for skulls from other burial caves. He had good intentions to keep them in single area. We respect the dead so much that Berong would first say prayers before he take the skeletons. He would say, 'I want to get you and keep you in a very safe place, do not say anything because I will take care of you,'" Merino told the INQUIRER.

Kelcho said Berong made it his mission to collect skeletons abandoned in rock formations found in the boundary of Barangays Poblacion and Duacan to secure them.

Museum curator Isikias Picpican, author of the "Igorot Mummies," said his earlier discussions with Kabayan elders showed that the Opdas cave could be one of the mass burial caves of victims of cholera and small pox epidemics in the town in the 1700s.

"When there was an epidemic, people did not consider a decent burial. People were always given a proper burial, but during times of epidemic, the dead were thrown into a hole, usually a passageway of a cave, until they pile up," Picpican said.

He said aside from Opdas, elders also identified two mass burial caves in Barangay Duacan.

Hiding places

Picpican said some accounts of elders showed that some of their ancestors, who were afflicted with diseases, fled the village and hid in caves.

"These caves eventually became their burial sites," Picpican said.

He said no one really knows the original number of the skulls and skeletons, but he said Berong told him that the cave had been looted.

Locals and tourists are amazed that some of the skulls have complete sets of teeth.

Information etched in a cement marker at the Opdas cave entrance said results of carbon dating done in a Japanese university showed that the skulls were between 500 and 1,500 years old.

A kneecap found in the cave that was subjected to carbon dating and other studies showed that its owner was a 14-year-old girl who died of cholera 800 years ago.

Fil-Am chef in White House to debut with royal dinner

From page A1

kitchen. She has been slicing and dicing there for 10 years, assembling meals big and small as an assistant to former chef Walter Scheib III, who hired her as a part-timer in 1995.

In fact, Comerford gets the credit for two recent White House dinners.

One menu of chilled asparagus soup with lemon creme, pan-roasted halibut, ginger-carrot butter, basmati rice with pistachio nuts and currants, and herbed summer vegetables was served to 134 guests at an official dinner in July in honor of India's prime minister.

It helped the Filipino-American chef clinch the promotion.

One of the best

With such experience under her apron, dinner for the royals "should be, in many respects, old hat," said Scheib, whose exit from the kitchen in February after 11 years of cooking for two Presidents cleared the way for Comerford's appointment by Mrs. Bush.

"She is one of the best chefs culinarily that I've ever worked with," Scheib said in an interview, describing Comerford as "basically a co-chef with me. Her input and her menus were used as often as not."

Passion in every bite

Roland Mesnier, a former White House pastry chef, said Comerford was "extremely knowledgeable" about the cuisines of different cultures. That "helps tremendously when you're the chef of the White House" and feeding many foreign visitors, he said.

In her statement announcing the promotion in August, Laura Bush said Comerford's "passion for cooking can be tasted in every bite of her delicious creations."

Comerford, 43, is a naturalized US citizen from the Philippines who studied French cooking in Vienna, Austria, and specializes in ethnic and American cuisine.

She was born Cristeta Gomez Pasia on Oct. 27, 1962, to Honesto, an assistant principal in a public elementary school in Manila, and Erlinda, a homemaker.

UP student

Her family said Comerford's interest in cooking only became evident when she entered UP in Diliman in 1979 as a food technology major.

She took several leaves of absence as a student and didn't finish her course, but she was able to complete 84 units, enough for her to be considered a UP alumna.

A brother said Comerford never returned because she had already immigrated to the United States to join their parents.

Pleasing finicky palates

The appointment of a woman White House chef was strongly encouraged by Women Chefs and Restaurateurs, an advocacy group. Women represent half of all food service workers, but just 7 percent of executive chefs, said president Bonnie Moore.

Even fewer women hold the "clout" jobs, such as White House chef.

COMERFORD: Lunch and three dinner courses for Britain's Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall. FILE PHOTO

Comerford's appointment "is exactly what young women thinking of a career in the culinary arts need set as an example before them," Moore said in an interview.

Comerford now has the prestigious yet grueling responsibility of pleasing the palates of some of the world's most powerful and, perhaps, finicky palates. She will design menus for everything from state dinners and other official functions, where the guest list can soar into the hundreds, to cozier gatherings hosted by the President and First Lady.

$100,000 job

The job pays between $80,000 and $100,000 a year.

Once the Prince and Duchess have been served—preparations for the meal began several months ago—Comerford will turn her attention to the holidays and such "must-do" items as making sure she's lined up enough extra staff, equipment and, most importantly, food to feed the masses.

The White House kitchen feeds about 2,000 dinner and reception guests every month. But the figure grows almost fivefold in December, when work days of 16 to 18 hours become the norm for the staff.

In fact, Comerford already has begun to plan menus and hold tastings for holiday meals, "so she is definitely multitasking," said Susan Whitson, spokesperson for Laura Bush. *AP and PDI Research*

Women prone to demonic possession, says exorcist

From page A1

Be afraid. Be very afraid.

According to a certified Filipino exorcist, women are prone to demonic possession because they are generally more "psychic and intuitive" than men.

"They are more open to the spiritual world," said Fr. Jose Francisco Syquia, a professor of spiritual theology at the San Carlos Seminary and one of the few "designated" exorcists in the local Catholic hierarchy.

Syquia has worked with Fr. Gabriel Amurth, the Vatican's chief exorcist.

Holy people, places

In an interview with reporters, Syquia said even nuns were not spared from possible possession, considering that evil spirits were usually attracted to holy people and places, such as seminaries and monasteries.

However, it is this same holiness that will banish demonic exploits, he added.

In the Philippines, Syquia said possession seemed to be a common occurrence because of occult practices, such as going to an "*albularyo*" (quack doctor) or consulting people who claim to be witches.

He also noted the immense popularity of the "spirit of the glass." This supposed means of communicating with the spirits has spawned similar, albeit somehow outrageous, practices, such as "spirit of the coin or the ballpen."

Syquia said the Church was particularly strict about the spirit of the glass, citing the Book of Deuteronomy which asks the faithful "never [to] contact or search the spirits because you only open yourself to demonic interaction."

"Who are you worshipping (anyway)?" he asked. "You are allowing the evil spirits to have power over you because you are worshipping them."

Benedict's medal

In warding off possession, people could use religious items like rosaries, Benedict's medal and scapulars.

"Demons are all around us and they can attack us in many possible ways," he said. "That's why we have to have these protections."

If all these fail, the job of driving away evil spirits that have taken over a body falls on exorcists, like Syquia.

Technically, he said, any priest could perform an exorcism provided he is authorized by the bishop of the diocese under whose spiritual jurisdiction the possession has occurred.

Syquia said exorcists should seek a bishop's permission only after making sure that the case was indeed a possession, not a psychiatric problem.

Ancient manual

He said an important tool against the devil was a 400-year-old manual of prayers for exorcism. This is a compilation of all the death prayers used by saints, Church fathers and exorcists against the demon.

Not all exorcisms would immediately drive away bad spirits. Some cases take years before a person is completely purified depending on the degree of evil within him.

"Evil persons are difficult to exorcise," he said.

InqBox Question of the Week

How will the November 1 implementation of eVAT affect your life?

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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LRTA ready for Nov. 1 commuters; no fare hike

A BOY looks for a relative's tomb at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (LRTA) has made special preparations for the anticipated increase in commuters who will visit the tombs of their loved ones to mark All Saints' Day today.

LRTA Administrator Mel Robles said the agency would set up special lanes to ease commuter traffic especially at the R.Papa station which is close to the North Cemetery. The station is the busiest among LRT Line 1 terminals every Nov. 1. "At R. Papa, we will have additional tellers, enough tickets and loose change in anticipation of more passengers," Robles said.

Security had been beefed up in LRT stations today. In the light of the recent train bombing incident in India, the LRTA has conducted an information campaign among its staff on how to spot probable security threats, added Robles.

"LRTA personnel, including rail police, have been on heightened alert since the threat of terrorism was reported," the LRTA chief said.

Robles denied reports that they would increase its fare today because of the imposition of the value added tax (VAT). "The LRT is still the most affordable, convenient and safest mode of transportation for the riding public. We have not increased our fare although the VAT will take effect," Robles said. The Metro Rail Transit also denied it would raise its fare because of the VAT.

Cemeteries in fiesta mode

By Tarra Quismundo, Margaux Ortiz, Jocelyn Uy, Nancy Carvajal, Edson Tandoc Jr.

POLICEMEN, SNIFFER DOGS, deputized public safety officers, and brief showers were not enough to dampen the fiesta atmosphere in the Metro's major cemeteries yesterday as crowds cut grass and cleaned tombs in preparation for All Saints' Day today.

Security was tight around the 25-hectare Manila South cemetery since the weekend, with policemen and locally deputized public safety officers deployed inside and around the cemetery.

"Our intelligence reports indicated that terrorists could take advantage of the holidays and cause panic inside cemeteries. That's why we are looking out for those who may bring in improvised explosive devices here," said Supt. Eduardo Sierra, chief of the Manila Police District (MPD) Sta. Ana Precinct.

A special security force from the MPD is on 24-hour detail in the cemetery, with officers from the Makati Police Department and the Makati Department of Public Services at the cemetery's perimeter providing external security.

At the smaller Makati Catholic Cemetery, the Makati police set up three assistance centers around the perimeter, and deployed foot patrol teams inside, said Makati's operations chief Supt. Felipe Napoles Jr.

In Manila, the city government provided wheelchair services for sick and old cemetery-goers who could have a hard time getting around the 54-hectare Manila North Cemetery.

"The Manila North Cemetery is the country's biggest cemetery," MNC officer-in-charge Jorge Amante explained, adding that 20 wheelchairs manned by volunteers from the Manila Youth Organization would be stationed at the cemetery entrance today.

The cemetery, which was established in 1903, has been the burial grounds for Philippine Presidents Sergio Osmeña, Manuel Roxas, Ramon Magsaysay, and Senators Claro Recto and Quintin Paredes. The late presidential candidate and actor Fernando Poe Jr. is also buried at the cemetery.

The festive air at the Manila Memorial Park (MMP) and the Loyola Memorial Park (LMP) in Parañaque City was already in full swing, with beach umbrellas and camping tents set up by cemetery-goers beside the tombs of their loved ones.

The scent of flowers and lit candles mingled with the aroma of barbecues and pizza. Food stalls bloomed inside the park, but ambulant vendors were only allowed to peddle their wares in front of the 114-hectare park. The nearby 13-hectare LMP, however, allowed ambulant vendors to compete with food stalls inside the park.

Peaceful, was how police described the situation in the 21 public and private cemeteries in the cities of Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela, according to the reports from the Tactical Operation Center of the Northern Police District Office.

Supt. Lino R. Garcia said his men noted a marked decrease in bladed weapons and prohibited drinks confiscated from cemetery-goers.

At the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City, high school students volunteered as junior policemen, inspecting even water jugs people had brought in.

Kilometers away, at the 1.5 hectare Pasig City Public Cemetery, many residents were still busy repainting and cleaning tombs.

High prices also affect day of remembrance

By Edson Tandoc Jr., Jocelyn Uy and Nancy Carvajal

REMEMBERING THE DEAD IS costing the living more this year.

From repainting tombs to buying fresh flowers and candles, people have to spend more.

Ben Hernandez, 61, spent almost P1,000 to repaint the tombs of his parents at the Pasig City Public Cemetery.

Last year, a gallon of white paint cost only P250. This year it costs P350.

Regina Untalan, 33, spent P500 for a flower basket and two flower pots for her godmother who is buried at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

The flower arrangement cost almost twice the P300 she paid last year. The flower pot, at P100, was also double its old P50 price.

Rolly Lim, who has a flower shop at Loyola's main entrance, said prices of flowers went up this year because of higher gasoline prices that raised transport costs.

SLIM pickings from candle sales.
JOAN BONDOC

Maria Corazon Pedrealva, who owns a flower shop fronting the Manila Memorial Park (MMP) in Parañaque City, said people now preferred to buy flowers at the Dangwa terminal in Sampaloc, Manila, instead of spending on arrangements.

This year, she is selling her floral arrangements at about 50 percent less. But Amalia Fernandez and her 14-year-old daughter Jackielyn, who sell flowers at the gates of MMP, remained hopeful.

Fernandez said they sold flowers on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day to augment their income.

Tomb cleaners and other vendors were also complaining. Al Asuncion, a candle vendor at the Sangandaan Cemetery in Caloocan City, said his sales were reduced by half this year. Lito Gonzales said tomb cleaners/painters like him lost business because of continuous rains.

The rains washed the tombs clean and the paint would not dry, he said.

Balete may be official 'haunted site'

By DJ Yap

A QUEZON CITY BARANGAY OFficial wants to cash in on the White Lady, that popular urban legend who reportedly haunts Balete Drive in New Manila.

Barangay Mariana chair Regina Celeste San Miguel wants the area declared a "haunted site" and make it available as a venue for Halloween parties and other "ghostly" activities.

San Miguel said many people had already heard of the legend so the city could use the tale to boost local tourism. The barangay could pass an ordinance declaring the street haunted and making it available for Halloween parties, she said.

Stories about the White Lady surfaced decades ago when a teenaged girl died in the area in a car accident. "Drivers, mostly men, reportedly see her seated at the back of their vehicles or crossing the street," San Miguel said.

She said she never saw the ghost herself but heard stories about sightings from her family, other residents, and visitors.

San Miguel added that the apparition did not cause harm to most people, though one driver allegedly had an accident when he "tried to avoid hitting a girl in white crossing the street who disappeared seconds later."

Motorists just have to grin and bear repair work hassle

By Tarra V. Quismundo

REPAIR WORK WON'T stop just because motorists are on the road even for the holidays.

Metro Manila's traffic chief said it was not possible to suspend road maintenance work though it caused some inconvenience. Motorists had been complaining about ongoing repairs on Edsa, timed for the long weekend to have the least possible effect on traffic.

Since Friday evening, the Department of Public Works and Highways had been repaving damaged portions of both northbound and southbound lanes of Edsa. On the Southbound side, repair is ongoing near Guadalupe. On the other side, affected portions are near Shaw Boulevard and Shangri-La Mall, and the Edsa-Gil Puyat Avenue intersections.

The lanes had to be closed for the laying and curing of concrete, said Angelito Vergel de Dios, executive director of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Traffic Operations Center.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, November 1, 2005
All Saints Day

1st Reading: Rev 7:2-4,9-14
2nd Reading: 1 Jn 3:1-3
Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain. He sat down and his disciples gathered around him. Then he spoke and began to teach them:

"Fortunate are those who have the spirit of the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Fortunate are those who mourn, they shall be comforted.

"Fortunate are the gentle, they shall possess the land.

"Fortunate are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

"Fortunate are the merciful, for they shall find mercy.

"Fortunate are those with a pure heart, for they shall see God.

"Fortunate are those who work for peace, they shall be called children of God.

"Fortunate are those who are persecuted for the cause of justice, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Fortunate are you, when people insult you and persecute you and speak all kinds of evil against you because you are my followers. Be glad and joyful, for a great reward is kept for you in God. This is how this people persecuted the prophets who lived before you."

Commentary

We draw near to the end of ordinary time in the year of the Lord 2005 and we celebrate all the great servants of the Lord who will be sealed with the mark of God. They come from every race, nation, people and tongue on earth and they are clothed in white (baptism) and resurrection because they have been faithful in the face of trial and the world's history that persecutes and rejects and ignores the Word of God. These are the saints of God. We are the saints of God, called in our place and time to be holy. How? We are to practice poverty (sharing with others), mourn the sufferings of others, be gentle (non-violent), hunger and thirst for justice and holiness, be merciful to all, make peace on earth, be pure of heart, loving God first and all others in God and be willing to be persecuted, even killed for the preaching and bringing of Good News to the poor. When we do these things we are blessed even now and saved forever. God, make us saints today, servants marked with your sign of salvation: the cross. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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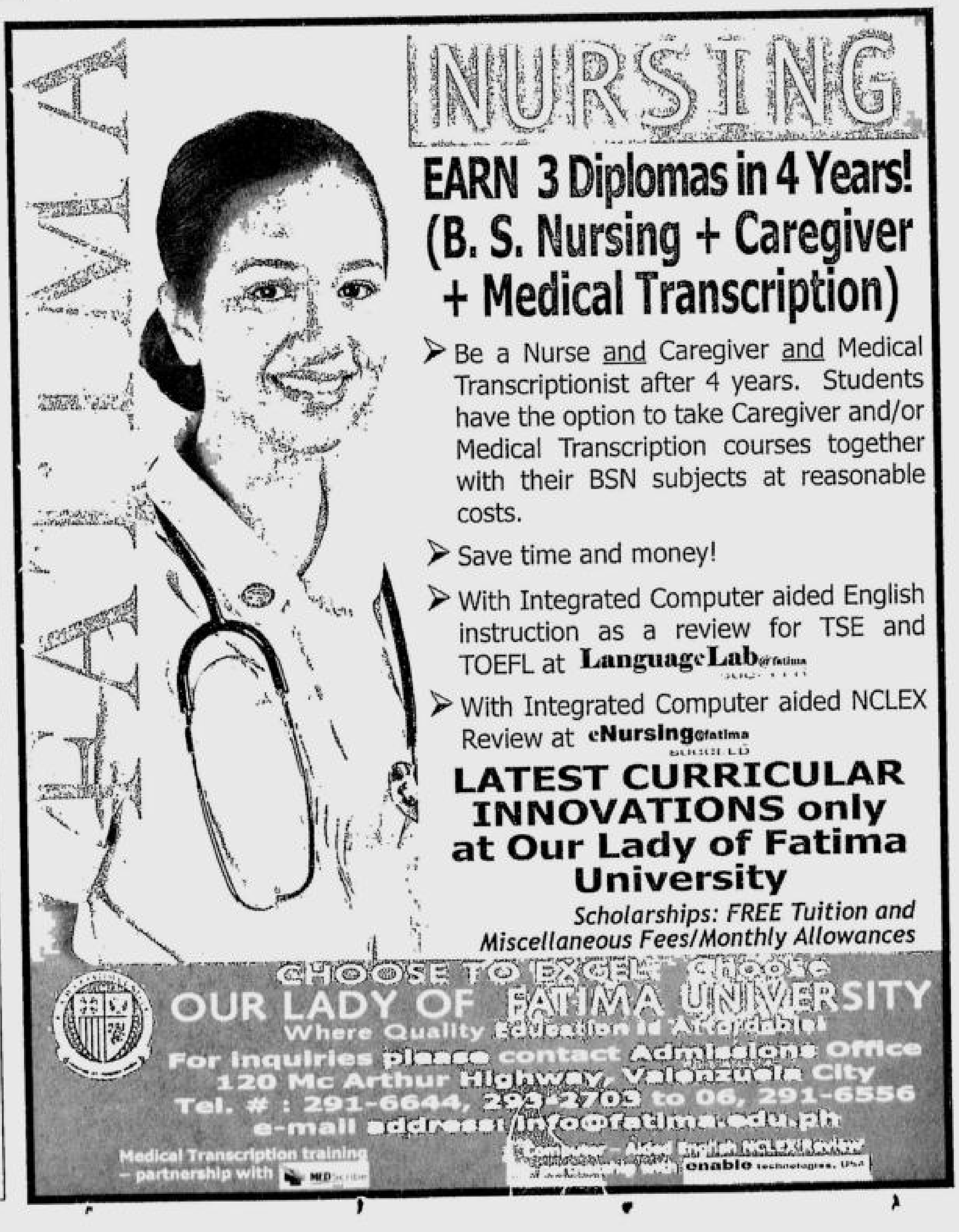

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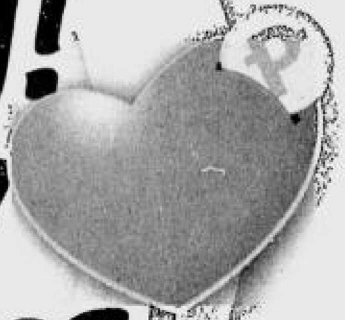

November 1-30, 2005

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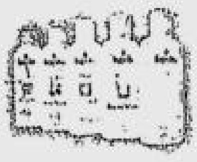

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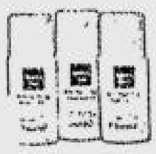

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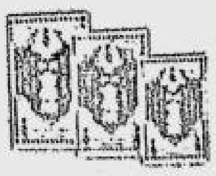
CLEENE COTTON BALLS 300	49.75	44.75
CLEENE COTTON BALLS 50	10.75	9.65



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WHITE FLOWER NO.3	66.50	63.00

	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
COLGATE FCONFI CC P-ICE 100ML	53.50	50.75
COLGATE FCONFI CC P-ICE 10ML	5.50	5.20
COLGATE FCONFI CC P-ICE 150ML	78.00	74.00
COLGATE FCONFI CC P-ICE 50ML	33.50	31.75
COLGATE FCONFI CC SFRSH 100ML	53.50	50.75
COLGATE FCONFI CC SFRSH 10ML	5.50	5.20
COLGATE FCONFI CC SFRSH 150ML	78.00	74.00
COLGATE FCONFI CC SFRSH 50ML	33.50	31.75
COLGATE FCONFI+WHTNG 100ML	48.50	46.00
COLGATE GEL FCONFI CTRUS 100ML	48.50	46.00
COLGATE GEL FCONFI XRED 100ML	48.50	46.00
COLGATE GEL FRSH CONFI 100ML	48.50	46.00
COLGATE MTRINSE BL 100ML	48.50	46.00
COLGATE MTRINSE RED 100ML	48.50	46.00
COLGATE POKEMON BBLEFRT 40G	26.00	24.70
COLGATE TOTAL PLUS WHTNG 90G	42.00	39.90
COLGATE TOTAL WHTNG GEL 160G	72.50	68.75
COLGATE TRIPLE ACT 100ML	48.50	46.00
COLGATE WHTNG 160G	67.00	63.50

Ferrous Sulfate

Adverse Reaction: GI irritation.

	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
FERROUS SULF TAB 325MG	0.70	0.60

Calcium Lactate

No Adverse Reaction.

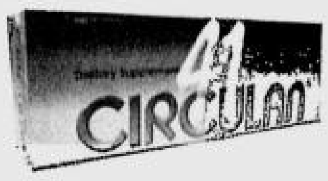
	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
CALCIUM LACTATE TAB 325MG	0.60	0.55
CALCIUM LACTATE TAB 650MG	0.90	0.80

Menthol, camphor, methyl salicylate

	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
SUPERSCENT OIL 100ML	50.25	45.25
SUPERSCENT OIL 25ML	16.25	14.60
SUPERSCENT OIL 50ML	27.25	24.50

	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
XYLOGEL ORAL GEL BGUM 25G	150.00	135.00

	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
DIAPARENE BB WSH FF 50	109.50	98.50

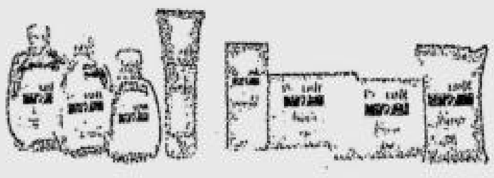


Crataegus extr, ginkgo biloba, garlic oil, melissa officinalis extr

Adverse Reaction: Skin rash.

	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
CIRCULAN CAP	15.00	13.50

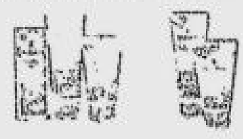
	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
ANCHOR 2 IN 1 CHOC FORTIFCM 165G	54.00	52.25
ANCHOR 2 IN 1 CHOC FORTIFCM 1KG	304.00	294.75
ANCHOR FC MLK PDR 180G	54.00	52.25
ANCHOR FC MLK PDR 400G	115.75	112.25
ANCHOR FC MLK PDR 800G	231.00	224.00
ANCHOR FC PDR MLK 1800G	507.25	492.00
ANCHOR FC PDR MLK 2.5KG	703.00	681.75



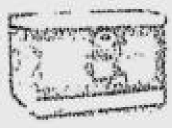
	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
BIOLINK GR PPYA FWSH 100ML	85.00	80.75
BIOLINK GR PPYA FWSH 10ML	11.00	10.40
BIOLINK GR PPYA HBL 100ML	58.50	55.50
BIOLINK GR PPYA HBL 10ML SAC	10.50	9.90
BIOLINK GR PPYA HBL 50ML	42.50	40.25
BIOLINK GR PPYA SOAP 135G	39.00	37.00
BIOLINK GR PPYA SOAP 70G	15.00	14.25
BIOLINK GR PPYA SOAP 90G	28.50	27.00
BIOLINK GR PPYA WHTNG FC 150ML	35.25	33.40
BIOLINK GR PPYA WHTNG FC 250ML	53.75	51.00
BIOLINK GR PPYA WHTNG FC 75ML	21.50	20.40

	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
EXTRACT ACE FC AVOC 150ML	29.75	28.25
EXTRACT ACE FC CCUMBER 150ML	29.75	28.25
EXTRACT ACE FC PPYA 150ML	29.75	28.25
EXTRACT FC AVOC CL 150ML	27.50	26.10
EXTRACT THERA FC DRMSHLD 150ML	34.75	33.00
EXTRACT THERA FC LCRICE 150ML	34.75	33.00
EXTRACT THERA FC TEATREE 150ML	34.75	33.00

	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
PALMO NATSOAP GR S&HSKIN 125G	23.25	22.00
PALMO NATSOAP PKEXMSTRZD 125G	23.25	22.00
PALMO NATSOAP PPYA WHRAD 125G	29.75	28.25
PALMO NATSOAP SCARE 125G	23.25	22.00
PALMO NATSOAP WCARE 125G	30.50	28.75



	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
PONDS CLNSR&TNR FCLWASH 100ML	102.50	97.25
PONDS CLNSR&TNR FCLWASH 50ML	59.50	56.50
PONDS FCL WASH 100ML	96.25	91.25
PONDS FCL WASH 10ML	8.40	7.90
PONDS FCL WASH 50ML	53.00	50.25



	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
EXTRADERM LGTNG CRM 20G	75.50	68.00
EXTRADERM LGTNG SOAP 45G	27.25	24.50

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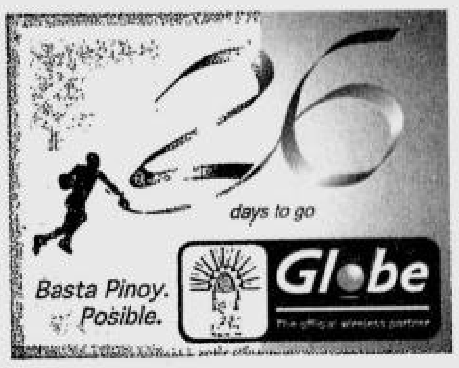

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SPORTS

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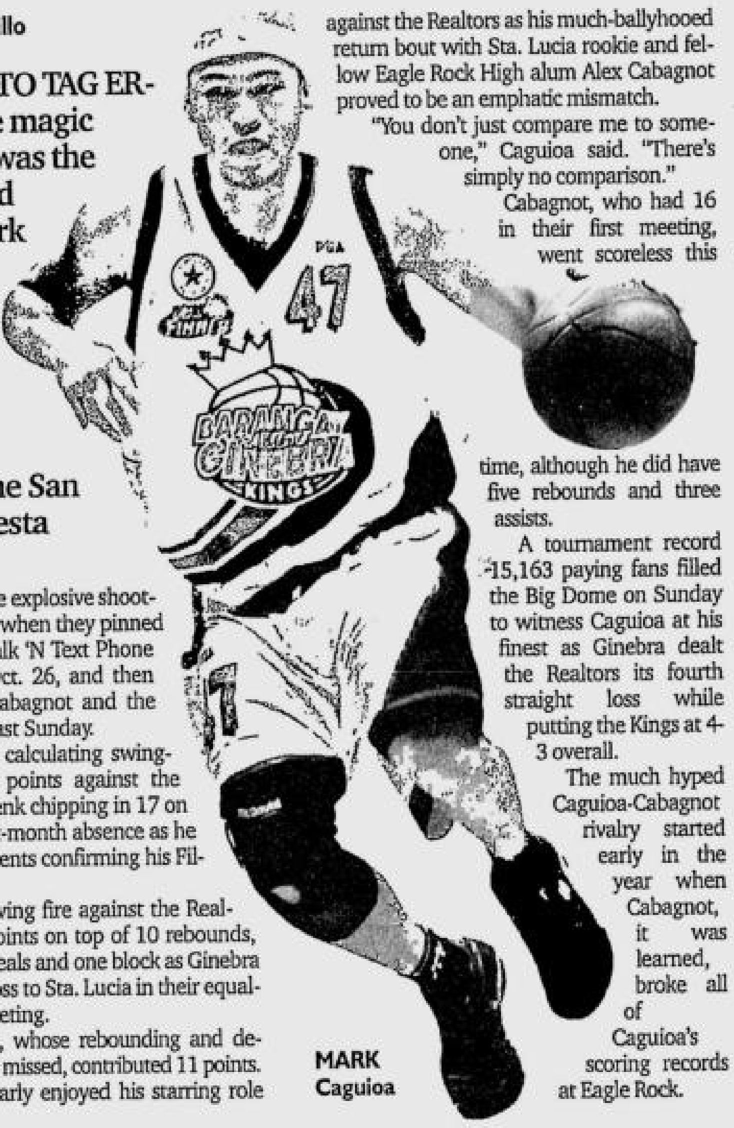
Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Iloilo eleven seals title clash with Davao /A18
- New NBA season parades 100-strong int'l dribblers /A19

Caguioa, Menk spark Ginebra turnaround

By Musong R. Castillo



MARK Caguioa

IT WAS EASY TO TAG ERic Menk as the magic charm, but it was the leadership and scoring of Mark Caguioa that ushered crowd-favorite Barangay Ginebra back into the limelight of the San Mig Coffee Fiesta Conference.

Caguioa paced the explosive shooting of the Gin Kings when they pinned a first loss on the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals, 100-94, last Oct. 26, and then got back at Alex Cabagnot and the Sta. Lucia Realtors last Sunday.

The smooth and calculating swingman unloaded 24 points against the Phone Pals, with Menk chipping in 17 on his return after a six-month absence as he searched for documents confirming his Fil-American status.

He was still spewing fire against the Realtors, shooting 19 points on top of 10 rebounds, four assists, three steals and one block as Ginebra avenged its 92-88 loss to Sta. Lucia in their equally explosive first meeting.

This time, Menk, whose rebounding and defense Ginebra sorely missed, contributed 11 points.

Caguioa particularly enjoyed his starring role against the Realtors as his much-ballyhooed return bout with Sta. Lucia rookie and fellow Eagle Rock High alum Alex Cabagnot proved to be an emphatic mismatch.

"You don't just compare me to someone," Caguioa said. "There's simply no comparison."

Cabagnot, who had 16 in their first meeting, went scoreless this time, although he did have five rebounds and three assists.

A tournament record 15,163 paying fans filled the Big Dome on Sunday to witness Caguioa at his finest as Ginebra dealt the Realtors its fourth straight loss while putting the Kings at 4-3 overall.

The much hyped Caguioa-Cabagnot rivalry started early in the year when Cabagnot, it was learned, broke all of Caguioa's scoring records at Eagle Rock.

Tigers overall leaders again; UE juniors up

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS IS SHOWing the way again in the general championship race after the first semester of action in Season 68 of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines.

UST ruled women's chess, swimming and table tennis and men's table tennis to amass 110 points, 16 ahead of La Salle and University of the Philippines.

University of the East showed the way in the high school division with victories in chess and table tennis and girls' swimming.

UE amassed 57 points to lead Ateneo, the boys' swimming champion, with 45 points, and UP Integrated School with 42. UST, last year's overall high school titlist, is running fifth with 40 points.

The Tigers also scored runner-up finishes in men's swimming and volleyball in the first semester where 10 of the total 26 events in the senior division were played.

Again, La Salle and UP, which finished 2-3 last season, are battling it out for No. 2 with similar provisional 94-point outputs. Far Eastern University had no team in swimming but collared the men's basketball and volleyball crowns to be in fourth place with 84 points.

Ateneo is fifth with 66 points, its conquest of the women's basketball crown at the expense of perennial champion Adamson serving as the highlight of its first-semester performance.

UE is in sixth with 60 points, followed by Adamson with 47 and National U with eight points. Adamson and NU also do not maintain swimming teams.

Despite failing to clinch a single title, La Salle managed four second-place finishes (men's basketball and chess and women's chess and volleyball).

UP topped men's chess and swimming.

Interestingly last season, La Salle led the first semester with 122 points. UST was second with 104 and UP then a distant third with 86.

Rounding out the juniors' standings are La Salle-Zobel, the basketball champion, fourth with 41, Adamson sixth with 18, NU seventh with 13 points and FEU, which returned to high school play, eighth with 8 points.

Tagaytay 'A' tops inter-cities chess

TAGAYTAY "A" AGAIN BANKED ON GRANDmaster Joey Antonio to pull off another escape act and rule the 2005 Inter-Cities and Municipalities Chess Team Championship at the Sports Center in Tagaytay City.

Team "A" beat its Team "B" after the tiebreak as both squads split the points in their two-game titular showdown.

TAGAYTAY/A18

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RP women pugs going for golden sweep

SHOO-IN FOR GOLD: Mitchell Martinez

A PHILIPPINE SWEEP OF THE BOXING MEDALS in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games set Nov. 27-Dec. 5 is possible.

Not by the men, but by the women fighters.

Barcelona Olympics bronze medalist Roel Velasco said the Filipinas under his tutelage are capable of winning all five divisions in the inaugural staging of women's boxing in the SEAG based on their impressive showing in two international meets recently.

"I'm confident the girls can do the job," said the brother of 1996 Atlanta Olympic silver medal winner Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco.

"After our impressive showing in the Asian and World Championships, I think a sweep is possible," he added.

Although the RP men's boxing team has always been considered among the powerhouse squads in the meet, they face tough opposition from Thailand and its world-class fighters.

Of the six Filipino pugs who made it to the finals during the 2003 SEAG in Vietnam, only Harry Tañamor was fortunate to win the gold medal in the 48-kg division.

Three of the country's five women boxers—Mitchell Martinez (lightweight), Gretchen Abaniel (finweight) and Analiza dela Cruz (bantamweight)—won medals in the recent Asian Boxing Championships in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

Martinez won the gold medal in the 60-kg class by beating India's Pranamika Borah in a referee-stopped contest. It was the second Asian title for the Filipina.

Both Dela Cruz (52kg) and Abaniel (46 kg) settled for the silver medals.

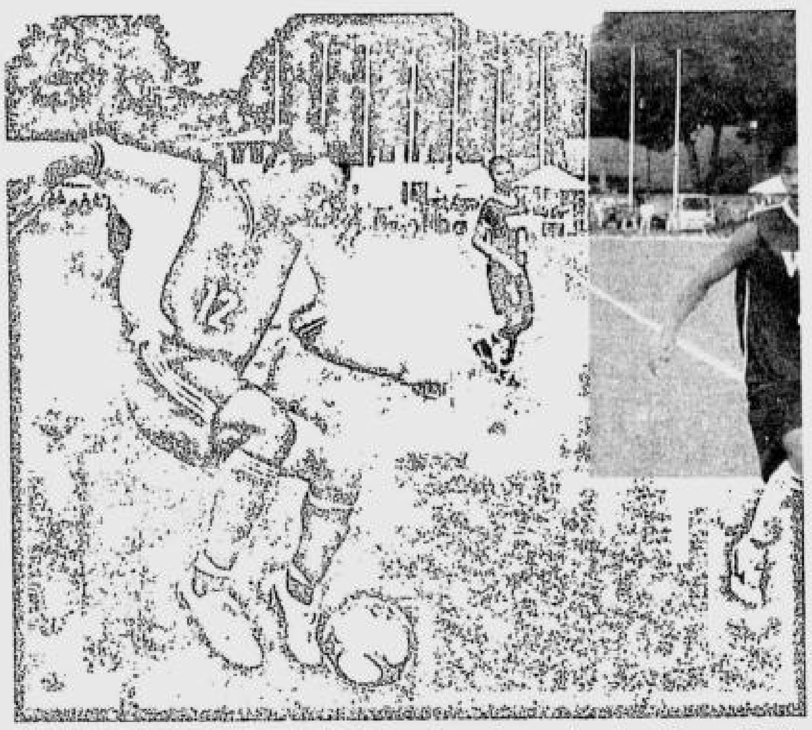
Martinez and Abaniel also bagged a bronze medal each in the 3rd World Women's Championships in Moscow, Russia.

Velasco said his boxers only have to improve on carrying out fight strategies.

Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap), also has high hopes for the women boxers, noting their success against their rivals from Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam in the Asian and world meets.

U-19 FOOTBALL

Iloilo seals title clash with Davao



ILOILO'S Mark Anthony Bedic (left) shows fancy footwork against Negros. Bedic scored in extra time to secure the Ilonggos' berth in the finals.

BAGO CITY—SHOWING STEELY DETERMINATION UNDER PRESSURE, TEAM JPV Biscocho House-Iloilo ousted host Negros Occidental with a thrilling 2-1 victory in extra time Sunday to reach the finals of the PFF-Adidas Under-19 National Youth Championship at the Manuel Torres Sports Center here.

Midfielder Mark Anthony Ferrer was at the right place at the right time in the 102nd minute, turning the cross of the surging Mark Iven Bedic into a neat tap-in inside the box to end the thriller.

With the victory, Iloilo forged a dream title duel with defending champion Davao that was set late yesterday.

Davao barged into the finals with a 2-0 triumph over National Capital Region early Sunday.

The Negros booters, mentored by former national mainstay Norman Fegidero Jr., had at least three golden chances to put away the Ilonggos in the second half, but poor ball control inside the box and the stellar performance of Iloilo keeper William Salgado foiled their bid.

Bedic's younger brother, Joven, broke the ice in the 31st minute with a right-footed rocket from 45 yards, but Romeo Alcoran's header off a Francisco Donieza cross made it 1-all at the break.

Salgado and Negros goalie Erl Tomodos shone brightest in the second half.

Salgado parried Paul Concepcion's shot in a one-on-one situation in the 59th minute and had numerous saves that frustrated the Negros attack.

Tomodos, for his part, saved what could have been the winning goal from Reylan Britanya in close range, keeping the ball out with his legs after Negros' defense broke down in the 77th minute.

Iloilo threatened anew in the 85th minute with Joven Bedic slipping the ball through to Britanya but again Tomodos was there to make the stop.

A left-footed rocket by Jason Panhay three minutes from time was tipped over the bar by Salgado, then Concepcion saw his shot go wide.

With Negrenses looking fagged-out, the Ilonggos pushed their attack in extra time and were rewarded with Ferrer's goal.

The event is organized by the Negros Occidental Football Association headed by Rep. Carlos Cojuangco. It is backed by PFF sponsor-partners Petron, Red Ribbon Bakeshop, 2Go, Pagcor Sports and Unicef.

Creative geniuses behind SEA Games rites

THE OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games will create a long and lasting impression on the viewing public.

Working behind the theme "One Heritage, One Southeast Asia," overall director Maria Montelibano said the opening rites will showcase the rich heritage and culture that binds the region and how, from this common legacy, sprang unique and extraordinary athletes with a singular passion—bring honor to their country.

The well-known television director is being supported by artistic and creative directors Pogs Mendoza and Robert Tongko.

Every segment features a mix of dance and theater performance backed by the overall production management of Lito Nadal, Jaime Godinez, Bebot Pondevida and Kokoy Jimenez.

Well-known composer Ryan Cayabyab will do the musical arrangement, along with the San Miguel Orchestra and SM Chorale.

Tagaytay 'A' tops inter-cities chess

From page A17

Antonio took the measure of International Master Chito Garma on the top board, but Tagaytay "B" salvaged a 2-2 draw in Game 1 after Rhobel Legaspi scalped Edmundo Gatus on board 3. All matches in Game 2 ended in draw. The tiebreak rule in chess team competitions states that the team that produced a full point on a higher board will be the winner. Tagaytay "A" was in a similar situation in the semifinals after last year's champ Alabang forged a 4-all count in their two-game series and a 2-all standoff in the tiebreak. Antonio beat fellow GM Nelson Mariano in the sudden-death to settle the issue. The win earned Tagaytay "A" P100,000 while Tagaytay "B" settled for P60,000. Antonio was also the board medalist on board 1 to win another P4,500. Tanauan City took third spot after a no-show by Alabang in the battle for third place. The other board medalists were Ruel Gonzales of Calamba (board 2), Chris Castellano of Parañaque (board 3), Agripino Camposano of Naga (board 4) and Roel Abelgas of Tanauan (board 5).

Expanded 2006 MY Games on the cards

A BIGGER VERSION OF THE MANILA Youth Games will be held next year following the success of the inaugural edition last week.

Manila Sports Council chief Arnold "Ali" Atienza said ensuring the future of the 17-and-under meet is in line with Manila's commitment to support the country's youth in their quest for sports excellence.

"We envision an even bigger MY Games National next year with the possible inclusion of other sports," said Atienza, who added that some LGUs have also expressed desire to host the event in the future.

The son of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said the host city shares the success of the event with all the LGUs that fielded teams.

The inaugural staging of the Games featured about 2,500 of the finest young athletes from 33 major cities, towns and provinces across the country, who competed in athletics, swimming, football, taekwondo, Little League baseball and softball.

A 15-year-old girl from Laguna, Ma. Cecilia Constantino, was crowned the best athlete of the weeklong meet after bagging five gold medals in athletics.

Other outstanding performers were swimming's Apryl Herrera, Tessa Alcantara, Judith Cruz, Gian Berino, Maxim Quilala and Kristian Libat, all of Manila, Naga City's Wilfredo Sunglao, Parañaque's Jazmine Al-Khaldi, Laguna's Jaclyn Junio, and Janin Sharon of Muntinlupa.

The Big City bets won the overall title with 97 golds. Laguna placed second with 39, Quezon City bagged 32 for third, Muntinlupa placed fourth with 21, while Paranaque settled for fifth with 18 golds.

Atienza thanked all the top LGU officials for their support, among them Laguna Gov. Ningning Lazaro, Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte, Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, Parañaque Mayor Jun Bernabe, Baguio City Mayor Braulio Yaranon, Gen. Santos City Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr., Bulacan Gov. Josie dela Cruz, Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo, Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi, Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, Taguig Mayor Sigfredo Tinga and Candon City Mayor Allen Singson.

Apology in order

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IT'S NOT FUNNY ANYMORE. PEOPLE ARE are being raked in coals. It's become that ugly.

It's got to stop, this bashing of De La Salle.

OK, some officials were at fault. Who were those officials, well, it's become immaterial.

At this time, we should let them be.

At this time, we should really back off, never mind if Manny Salgado has threatened us with a lawsuit if we continued hitting him.

And, yes, at this time, it's time to stop this festival of festering hatred against Br. Armin & Co.

Players Benitez and Gatchalian have suffered enough.

First, they were wrongdoers.

In the end, they became victims.

Enough is enough. Let's leave them alone now. In the silence of their solitude, they must be suffering. Let's not add to their miseries. Better yet, let's pray for serenity of soul and mind for these victims of adult tomfoolery.

Name me one who hasn't committed a mistake in his lifetime?

Even popes aren't infallible.

Benitez and Gatchalian faked their papers to make it to the De La Salle basketball team?

Oh, c'mon, you know better than that.

You tell me some crooks aided them to fake their school papers and we can tango right away.

But then, again, the crime has been exposed and the suspects—well, it happens in this benighted country most of the time—had become guilty through trial by publicity.

Lambaste them some more?

What about De La Salle, the ultimate perpetrator whether one likes it or not?

As I said here a while back, why did De La Salle not return the UAAP championship trophy outright when the school admitted it had committed the crime of fielding in ineligible players in 2004?

As a result, what merely began as a lighted matchstick has now become a virtual bush fire, a conflagration that is threatening to engulf an entire institution.

No doubt the university is now on trial, and in order for the judge, a.k.a. the public, to be convinced of transparency, particularly on the part of the school top brass, something concrete must be done immediately.

Since the crime had been admitted publicly anyway, I believe a public apology from no less than Br. Armin Luistro, FSC, is in order to combat the flood of negative bombardment being heaped almost daily on the university since the Benitez-Gatchalian scam was exposed some four weeks ago.

Have the apology published in the form of a paid advertisement to show sincerity. One full page if need be.

The school alumni must also start pitching. It can begin by declaring it is absolutely standing by the embattled Br. Armin. Teamwork is what the school badly needs now.

Contrasting opinions must be kept in the boardroom. A united stand must be unveiled to the public.

As I see it, all we hear, all we've been hearing all this time, is explanation.

Bad, bad strategy, if you ask me.

When you've done wrong, an explanation only exacerbates matters.

From explanation, you order an investigation.

Very, very bad, too.

There will be no end to it.

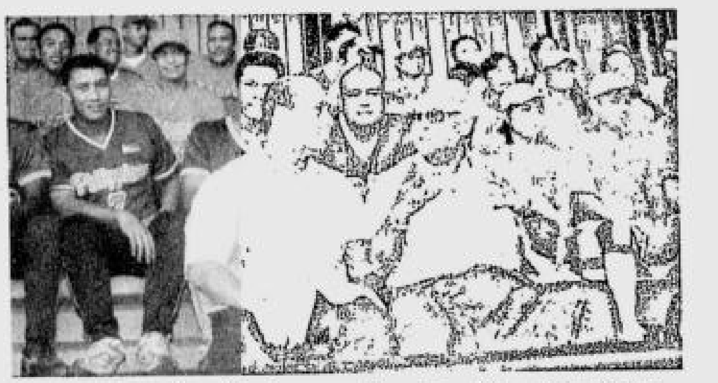
Admit, return the trophy, then apologize—sincerely.

Oh, yes, it will help if coach Franz Pumaren and his staff tender their irrevocable resignation.

That should do it. That should end it all—at least in the eyes of the public.

* * *

E-mail: menju@pldtdsl.net



JEAN Henri Lhuillier (left, foreground) and Asaphil president Harry Angping with members of the RP men's and women's softball teams.

Lhuillier new SEAG softball team manager

CEBUANA LHUILLIER EXECUTIVE vice president and GM Jean Henri Lhuillier was appointed team manager of the Philippine softball teams that will compete in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games this November.

Lhuillier, the current commissioner of slo-pitch softball, was tapped by the Amateur Softball Association to support the training of the 34 men and women athletes who are expected to win both divisions.

"We expect tough competition, but we'll make sure we continue to be the best that we can," Lhuillier told the players at the Rosario Stadium in Pasig City recently.

Lhuillier led the Cebuana Lhuillier slo-pitch team to the 2004 Bangkok International Softball championship as playing team manager and owner. He is also a member of the first RP team to win the Super Division in the Pangaea Cup.

Mix Two-Man Team
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WINNING PAIR: Commission on Elections Chair Ben Abalos (right) and granddaughter Charlene, daughter of Mandaluyong Rep. Benhur Abalos, with Wack Wack Golf and Country Club director Tommy Tan after topping the Alternate Shot golf tournament at the Mandaluyong layout recently. The champion tandem posted a net 61 on a 17 handicap to best 41 other teams.

Spring cagers down Golden Bird, grab lead

SPRING COOKING OIL HELD OFF Golden Bird, 81-75, Sunday to make it two in a row in the Picaa Open basketball tournament at the Philippine Buddhacare Academy gym in Quezon City.

Ex-pro Danny Capobres scattered 19 points and Rodel Manuel added 15 as the Cooking Oil Masters of national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and coach Efren "Yong" Garcia grabbed the lead in the eight-team tourney sponsored by Hang Ten, Absorba Sportswear, Tomish Cafe and Chloe Lightings.

King's Bakeshop overcame a 10-point halftime deficit to subdue Mediatrix, 61-56, and share the lead with Spring at 2-0.

FEU hotshot James Zablan led King's Bakeshop with 14 points.

Mail&More-Burlington leveled its record at 1-1 by beating Wang's Ballclub, 71-65, in the other game.

Former Santo Tomas Tiger Derrick Hubalde contributed eight points, including two free throws which sealed Spring's triumph.

Spring led 43-37 at halftime, but it had to turn back rallies by Golden Bird before scoring its second win.

The scores:

SPRING 81—Capobres 19, Manuel 16, Hubalde 8, Victolero 7, Neo 6, Yambao 6, Tiongco 5, Reyes 5, Kalaw 5, Taguines 2, Corbin 2, Caceres 0

GOLDEN BIRD 75—Araman 19, Ballazar 18, Attunaga 11, Mopera 9, Mamaclay 4, Tropa 3, Legarde 0, Hernandez 0.

Halftime: 43-37

KING'S BAKESHOP 61—Zablan 14, Mendoza 10, Tan 9, Sta. Cruz 8, Tubla 7, Regalado 4, Go 3, Litonjua 2, Sinco 2, Barbosa 2, Salud 0.

MEDIATRIX 56—Junio 15, Bagulon 10, Basco 10, Reyes 6, Valdez 4, Lopez 3, Montemayor 3, Manalili 2, Buenaventura 2, Williams 0, Zagala 0.

Halftime: [illegible]

McGinley tops Volvo by 2; Monty back as Euro No. 1

SOTOGRANDE, SPAIN—IRELAND'S PAUL MCGINLEY PULLED OFF THE biggest win of his 14-year European Tour career when he came from four strokes off the lead overnight to win the Volvo Masters on Sunday.

McGinley's flawless closing four-under-par 67 for a 10-under-par 274 total was two shots better than Spain's Sergio Garcia.

Three-round leader Colin Montgomerie finished a further stroke back with fellow-Briton Luke Donald and Jose Maria Olazabal of Spain.

But Montgomerie comfortably won the European Tour's order of merit for an eighth time. The 42-year-old Scot finished four ahead of his only rival Michael Campbell, who he had led on the money-list coming into the final event of the season.

McGinley, renowned as the man who sank the winning putt to beat the United States in the 2002 Ryder Cup, had underachieved before his $800,000 win on Sunday, taking only three titles.

With Montgomerie out in three-over 38, including a double-bogey at the seventh, and Garcia two-over for the first nine, McGinley, two-under for his front nine, took control and never looked back.

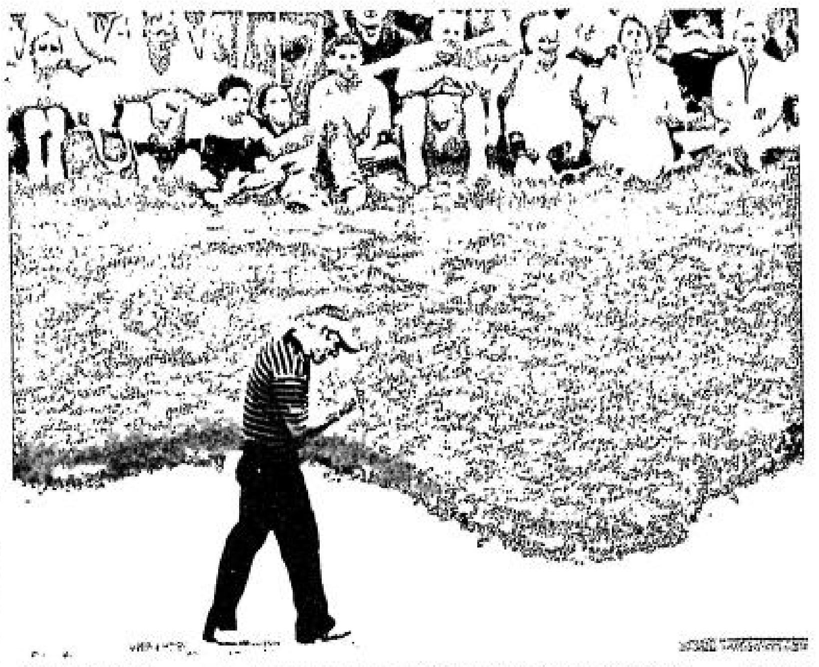
Montgomerie, winner of seven order of merit titles between 1993 and 1999, said: "The others became almost expected in the end. This one is very, very special."

McGinley came from four-over-par after the first five holes of the second round to finally become a major player on the European Tour.

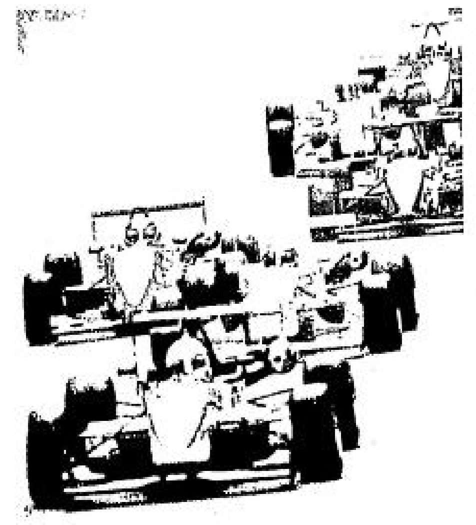
"I had come close to winning three big titles this year and it didn't happen," said McGinley. "The way my game has improved this year, I knew it was coming."

McGinley could not measure his biggest success with his winning putt in the Ryder Cup, though. "You can't compare the two. This was a selfish win; this was a win for Paul McGinley."

After winning the order of merit by 297,953 euros Montgomerie said: "After a six-year gap, to come back and do it again means my game has not gone. It's improved and that means a bunch to me. This has been the toughest." *Reuters*



PAUL McGinley reacts after well-placed pitch on the crucial 17th hole. REUTERS



THE WORLD'S finest Formula Three drivers are expected on the starting grid in Macau.

Four races up in Macau GP weekend

FOUR RACES, INCLUDING THE 39TH RUNning of the Macau Moto GP, make up the 52nd edition of the Macau Grand Prix slated Nov. 17-20 at the Guia street circuit.

The FIA Intercontinental Cup of Formula 3, the final round of the FIA World Touring Car Championships (WTCC), and the WTCC LG-Guia Race of Macau are the other races on tap in the event also known as the Far East Classic.

This year's schedule is by far the best in the rich history of the Macau GP, which is set against a stunning backdrop that earned for the circuit the name "Monaco of the East."

"For more than two decades since Ayrton Senna won the Formula 3 Grand Prix in Macau, the event has been the one race every young single seat driver dreams of winning," Joao Manuel Costa Antunes, a top official of the Macau Grand Prix Committee, said.

There will also be support races for international, regional and local competitors, namely, the Hotel Fortuna Trophy, the Macau Cup/Asian Touring Car, the 2005 Asian Formula Renault Challenge, the Porsche Infineon Carrera Cup Asia, and the Macau Grand Prix Committe Scooters Cup for Macau residents.

For more details call 812-2595 and 813-0947 or through the official website of the race at www.macau.grandprix.gov.mo

Agassi secures Masters berth

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FLORIDA—ANDRE Agassi qualified for the Tennis Masters Cup in China, leaving only two spots open in the season-ending showcase.

Agassi made the eight-player field for the Nov. 7-13 event in Shanghai when David Nalbandian lost Saturday in the Swiss Indoors semifinals.

Already in the field are Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Andy Roddick, Lleyton Hewitt and Marat Safin. The final two spots, as well as an alternate, will be determined at this week's Paris Masters.

Guillermo Coria and Nikolay Davydenko are the leading contenders for the final spots and are in the same half of the draw in Paris.

In Lyon, France, top seed Roddick outgunned French teenager Gael Monfils, 6-3, 6-2, to win the Lyon Grand Prix on Sunday.

The American completed the week without dropping a serve to snatch his fifth ATP title this season after victories in San Jose, Houston, Queen's Club and Washington. *AP*

New NBA season parades 100-strong int'l dribblers

WASHINGTON—NUMBER ONE DRAFT choice Andrew Bogut of Australia and Chinese center Yao Ming are among up to 100 international players who will be on National Basketball Association clubs in the season that opens Tuesday.

Aussie big man Bogut will make his NBA debut when the Milwaukee Bucks open Tuesday at Philadelphia while 2.26m giant Yao will spark the Houston Rockets, who begin their season on Wednesday at home against Sacramento.

In 2002, Yao became the first international player taken with the first pick in the NBA Draft. Bogut followed that legacy this year although the 7-footer went through the US college system, unlike Yao.

Bogut made his name with skilled passing and quickness inside last season at the University of Utah, averaging 20.4 points and 12.2 rebounds a game and hitting 62 percent of his shots to claim consensus Player of the Year honors.

Bogut averaged 14.8 points and 8.8 rebounds for the Aussie Olympic squad last year at Athens and hopes to help lift a rebuilt Bucks' squad beyond their 30-52 showing last season after a solid pre-season showing.

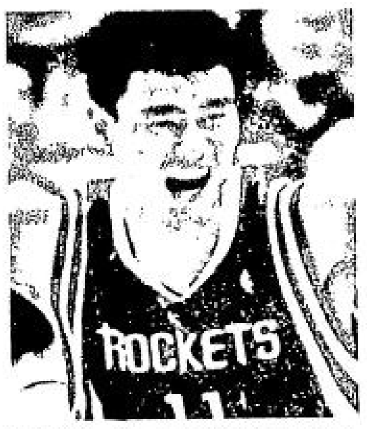
"His skills will be accentuated when you put better players around him, and his passing skills will become better when you have more scoring threats around him," Bucks coach Terry Stotts said.

"My concern for him is the progress he shows at the defensive end." He also wants to make maximum use of Bogut's passing skills without denying him the chance to be aggressive on offense.

"I don't want to take away his unselfishness. I think his passing is very important and we're going to need his passing during the season," Stotts said.

Bogut could make up to $26 million over five seasons with the Bucks, his agent said. *AFP*

STEVE Nash will spark Phoenix.



YAO Ming, Rockets' tower of power

Watson takes it with last-round surge

SONOMA, CALIFORNIA—TOM WATSON rallied from a six-shot deficit with an 8-under 64 on Sunday to win the Charles Schwab Cup Championship, the season-ending event on the Champions Tour.

Watson surged up the leaderboard as third-round leader Jay Haas struggled, finishing at 16-under 272 for his second win of the year and eighth victory on the Champions Tour.

Before the final round, the Senior British Open champion told his daughter Meg that Haas was "probably going to run away" with the title.

"I really didn't expect to win. I didn't expect to make 10 birdies like I did," said Watson, who capped the 2000 and 2002 seasons with a victory.

Watson, owner of 39 U.S. PGA Tour victories, earned $440,000 and also claimed the Charles Schwab Cup points race and a $1 million annuity.

Haas, going for his third win in four weeks, closed with a 71 and was a stroke back at 15 under.

Tom Kite had a final-round 67 and was third at 13 under. Mark McNulty was 11 under after a closing 68. *AFP*

Pettersson nails first PGA crown

PALM HARBOR, Florida—Sweden's Carl Pettersson captured his first US PGA Tour title, firing a final-round level par 71 here Sunday to win the $5.3 million US PGA Chrysler Championship by one stroke.

PETTERSSON

Petterson fired 16 pars with only one birdie to finish on nine-under par 275 and defeat American Chad Campbell by one stroke. Pettersson's best prior finish on the US PGA Tour was second at the 2003 Buick Invitational.

"It feels fantastic," Pettersson said. "It hasn't quite set in yet, but unbelievable. Just a real special day. I'm just thrilled. I don't really know what to say right now."

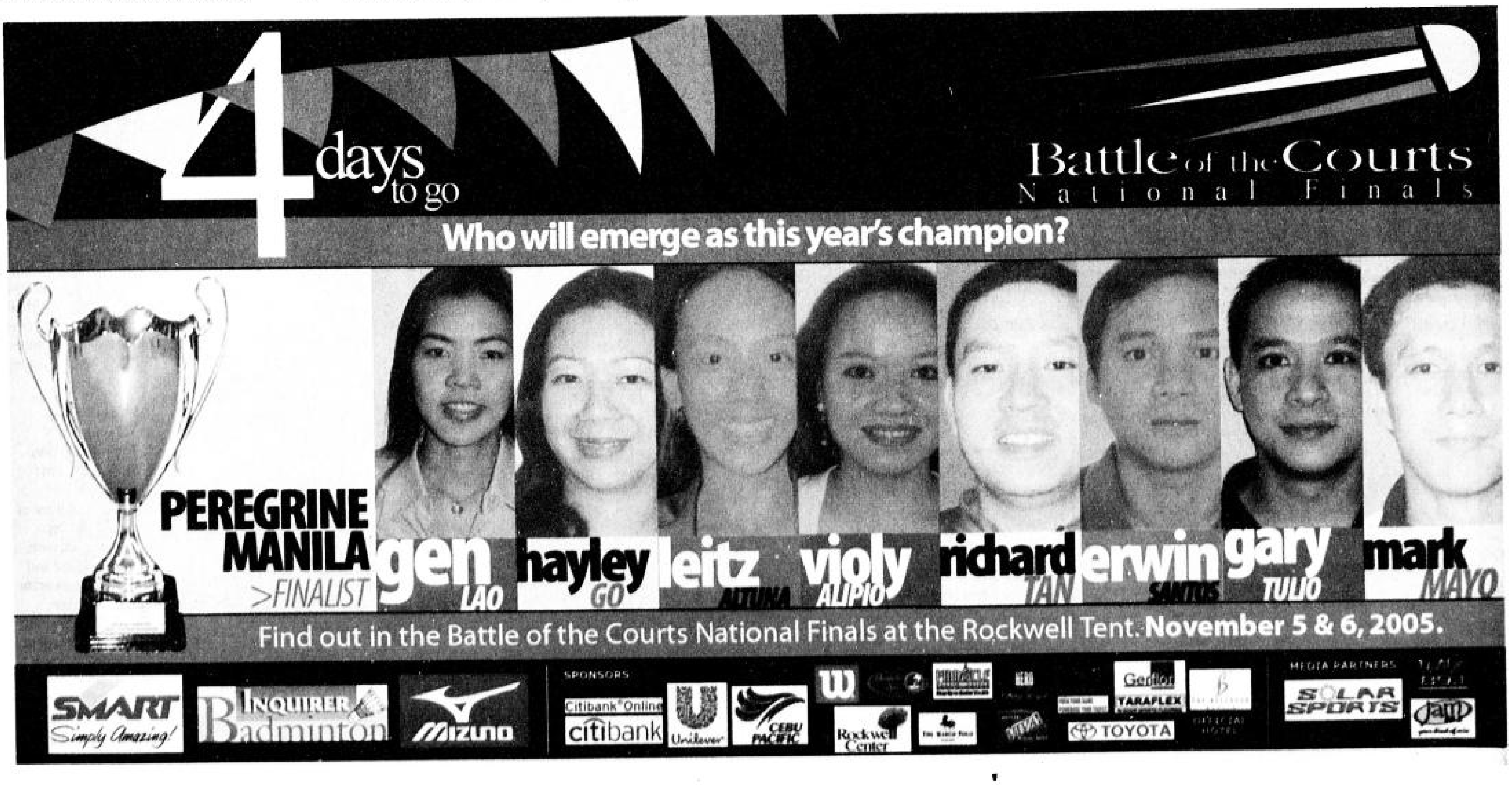
Pettersson took his only European Tour triumph at the 2002 Portugal Open in a playoff after missing a short putt on the last hole of an event shortened to 36 holes due to bad weather.

He pondered that miss as he stood over another three-footer for a title, then dropped the putt home.

"I said, 'Oh no, not again.' But I managed to get it in," he said.

Pettersson, 28, became the third Swede to win a US PGA Tour event, joining Jesper Parnevik, the most recent Swedish US PGA winner in 2001, and Gabriel Hjertstedt.

"It's nice to win a four-round event," Pettersson said. "It was important to myself to win (a US event) even if I didn't do it this week. Next year or the year after—eventually one early in your career to get the monkey off your back." *AFP*



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Battle of the Courts National Finals
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Feminism at the fest

ALICE PAUL (HILARY SWANK) IS A SUFFRAGETTE—a young, courageous woman who leads the campaign for women's right to vote in the United States, while Carrie Chapman Catt (Angelica Huston) is an older, more traditional leader of a women's organization, who works within the system to pursue her political agenda in the HBO original film "Iron-Jawed Jewels."

Pilar (Laia Maruli) is a gentle mother of a young son and wife of an abusive husband, but she discovers inner talents and strengths as she struggles to escape from a life of domestic violence in the Spanish film "Te Doy Mis Ojos (Take My Eyes)."

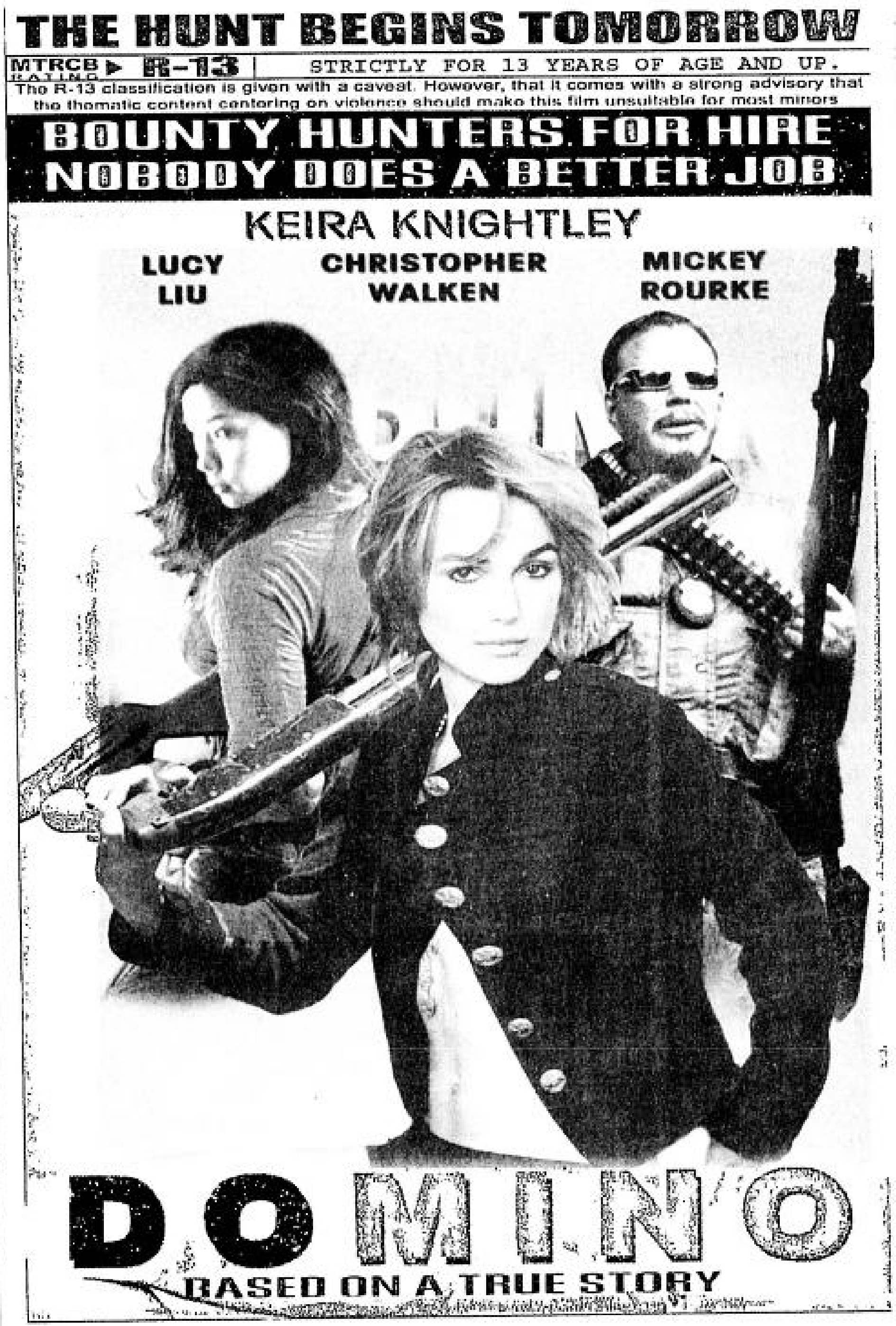
In the Iranian movie "Baran," Zahra Bahrami plays an Afghan refugee who has to take on all kinds of back-breaking work in order to help support her family who have settled in Iran. The film "Frida" focuses on the famous Mexican painter, Frida Kahlo (Salma Hayek), a passionate liberal who lived life according to her own terms.

Meenakshi Iyer is a most reluctant heroine—a young Hindu mother forced by circumstances to protect a Muslim man from Hindi extremists in the Indian film "Mr and Mrs Iyer." In "Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa?" Lea Bustamante (Vilma Santos) is a single mother of two children from different fathers, who chooses to live life in defiance to the dictates of society.

These are the varied faces of the central female characters at the F Festival, a special film festival being mounted Nov. 23-29 at the Shang Cineplex, Shangri-la Plaza, to celebrate the Feminist Centennial Year in the Philippines. All but a few of the films are about women, made mostly by women. The films have remarkable women as central characters, and they reflect the Centennial theme "Celebrating the Past, Inspiring the Future."

The festival is an initiative of the coordinator of the Media Committee of the NGO-GO Feminist Centennial Network.

An awards night will formally open the film festival, 7:30 p.m. Nov. 23. Local film luminaries, diplomats and cultural officers of the 10 participating countries are expected.


THE HUNT BEGINS TOMORROW
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Thespic treats await viewers in new films

Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon in 'Walk the Line,' Shirley Maclaine in 'In Her Shoes,' Diane Keaton in 'The Family Stone'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

TOPPING OUR LIST OF NEW FILMS TO WATCH out for is "Walk the Line," on the life of '50s rock singer **Johnny Cash** *and* his intense love for his wife, **June Carter**. Johnny and June are being played by the similarly "incendiary" **Joaquin Phoenix** and **Reese Witherspoon**, respectively.

The musical film bio focuses on the couple's younger years. To their credit, Joaquin and Reese sing all of their characters' songs themselves!

The movie's story begins in Depression-era Arkansas, and traces the origins of Cash's sound back to his beginnings as a sharecropper's son. It moves through his wild tours with rock 'n' roll pioneers **Elvis Presley** and **Jerry Lee Lewis**, and culminates in his unforgettable 1968 concert in Folsom Prison. He became the hottest artist of the day, momentarily even outselling the Beatles!

"Walk the Line" chronicles the birth of a new kind of musical artist, who had to move past anger, addiction and the temptations of stardom to discover the voice that would make him popular and acclaimed for generations.

Also a should-see is **Krzystof Krause**'s film, "My Nikifor," the grand prix Crystal Globe winner in the 40th Karlovy Vary international filmfest. Krause also won as Best Director, and **Krystyna Feldman** clinched the Best Actress award.

Nikifor was a fascinating figure in the 20th-century European art scene. A folk artist all alone in the world, she enters the studio and life of another artist, **Wlosinski**, who eventually appreciates Nikifor's strange uniqueness, fervent faith and spiritual freedom.

When she turns out to be tubercular, Wlosinski risks his life and that of his family to take care of the dying artist—until the day of her great triumph!

In the drama-comedy film, "In Her Shoes," **Shirley MacLaine** plays grandmother to Rose (**Toni Collete**) and Maggie (**Cameron Diaz**). The estranged siblings rediscover their love for each other when they reconnect with the maternal grandmother they thought was dead.

For her part, **Diane Keaton** is at the very core of "The Family Stone," where she plays a strong-willed matriarch who wants only the best for her five children.

The family's conflicts come to a head when her eldest son brings his girlfriend home. The bohemian stones greet the high-powered, controlling New Yorker with a mix of awkwardness, confusion and hostility.

In "Flightplan," **Sean Bean** portrays the pilot of the aircraft in which the young daughter of **Jodie Foster**'s character is reported to have disappeared.

Bean also stars in "North Country," where he plays a stay-at-home husband who has to take care of his ailing wife (**Charlize Theron**), whose illness has suddenly taken a turn for the worse.—Scintillating thespic treats, one and all!

'Phil of the Future'

ALL-NEW episodes of Disney Channel's "Phil of the Future" start airing on Nov. 5. Meet teenager Phil Diffy (**Ricky Ullman**) and his family, who find themselves stuck in the 21st century after their time machine breaks down during their time-traveling vacation. This forces them to adapt to present-day suburbia, while trying to find a way to get back to the 22nd century.

Making Phil's stay as a new kid on the block easier is his best friend, Keely Teslow, who helps him fit in and make new friends—while keeping his identity a secret.

'Lost' on Studio 23

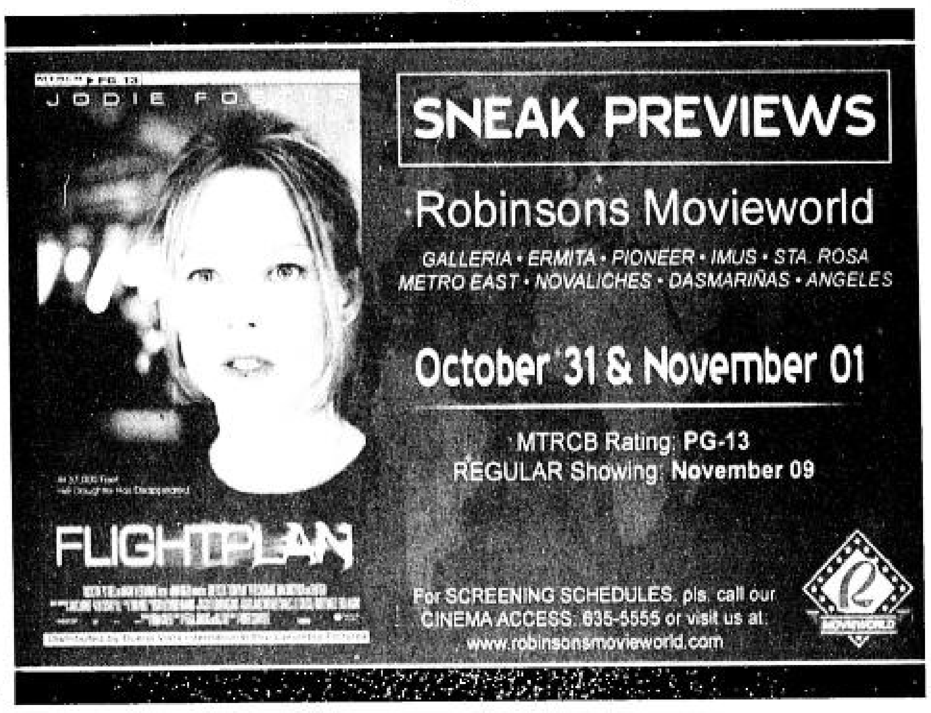
THE FIRST free-TV telecast of the hit TV show "Lost" will be on Nov. 7 on Studio 23. The series follows the stories of the survivors of Oceanic Air Flight 815, who become castaways on a remote island.

Among the survivors are a drug addict, a woman accused of murder, a troubled doctor, a former member of the Iraqi armed guard, and a con man.

And the island itself harbors its share of dangers, from collapsing caves to a mysterious monster lurking inside its thick forest foliage.

The series' stars include **Matthew Fox**, **Dominic Managhan**, **Terry O'Quinn**, **Naveen Andrews**, **Evangeline Lilly**, and **Josh Holloway**.

PHOENIX and Witherspoon use their own singing voices, too.



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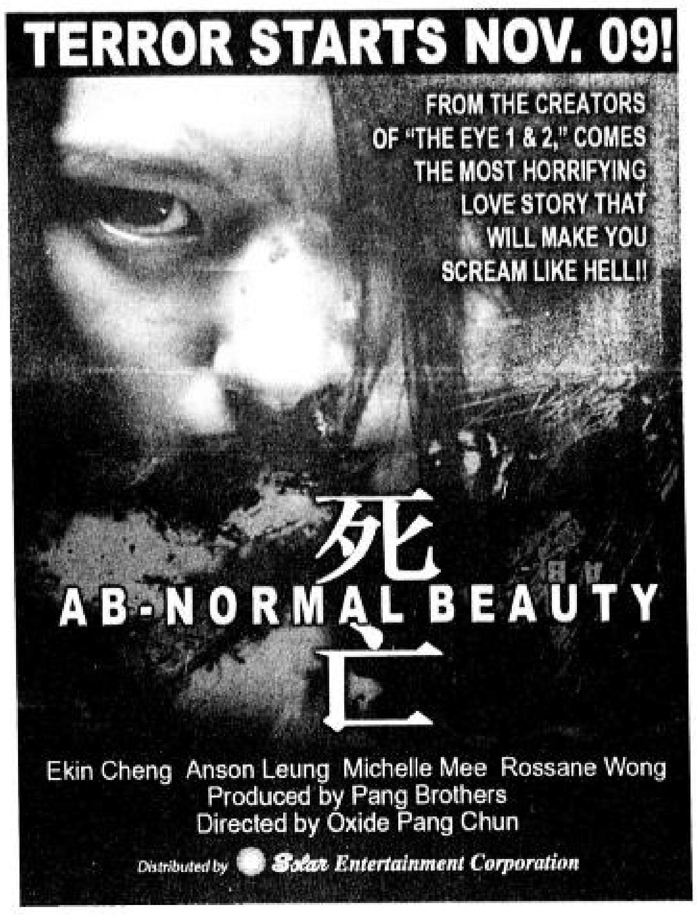

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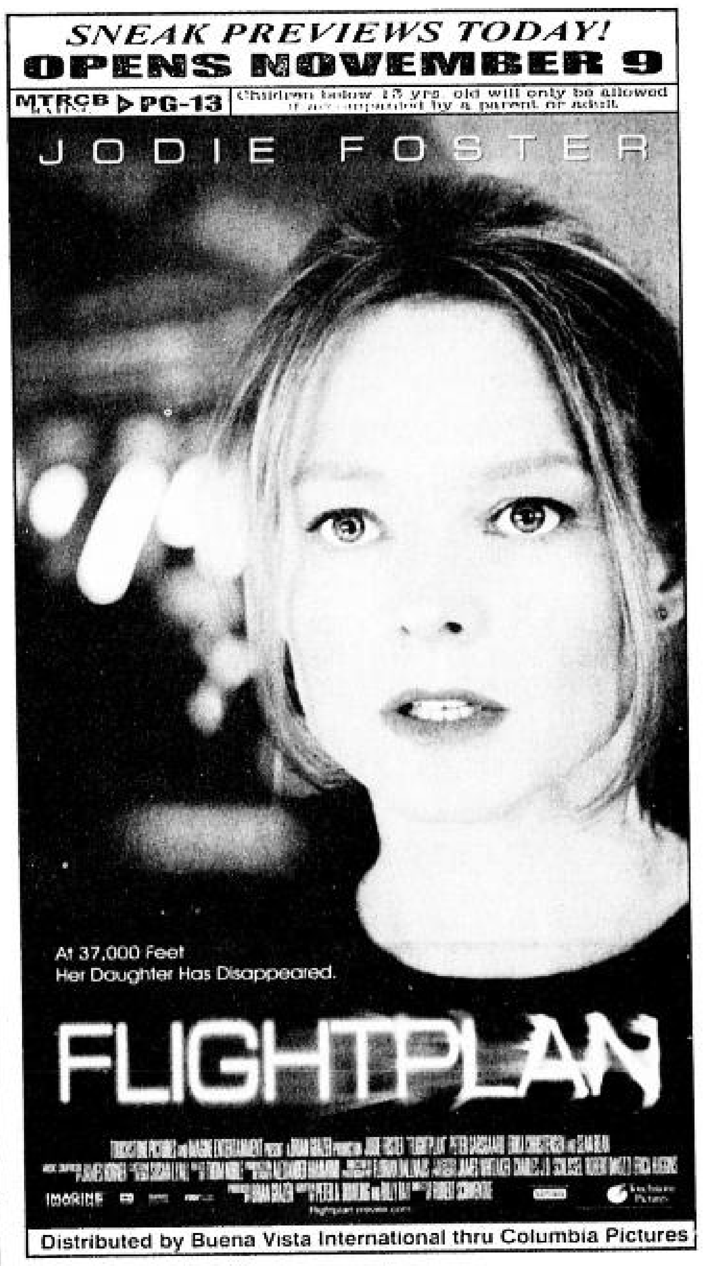

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JODIE FOSTER
At 37,000 Feet
Her Daughter Has Disappeared.
FLIGHTPLAN
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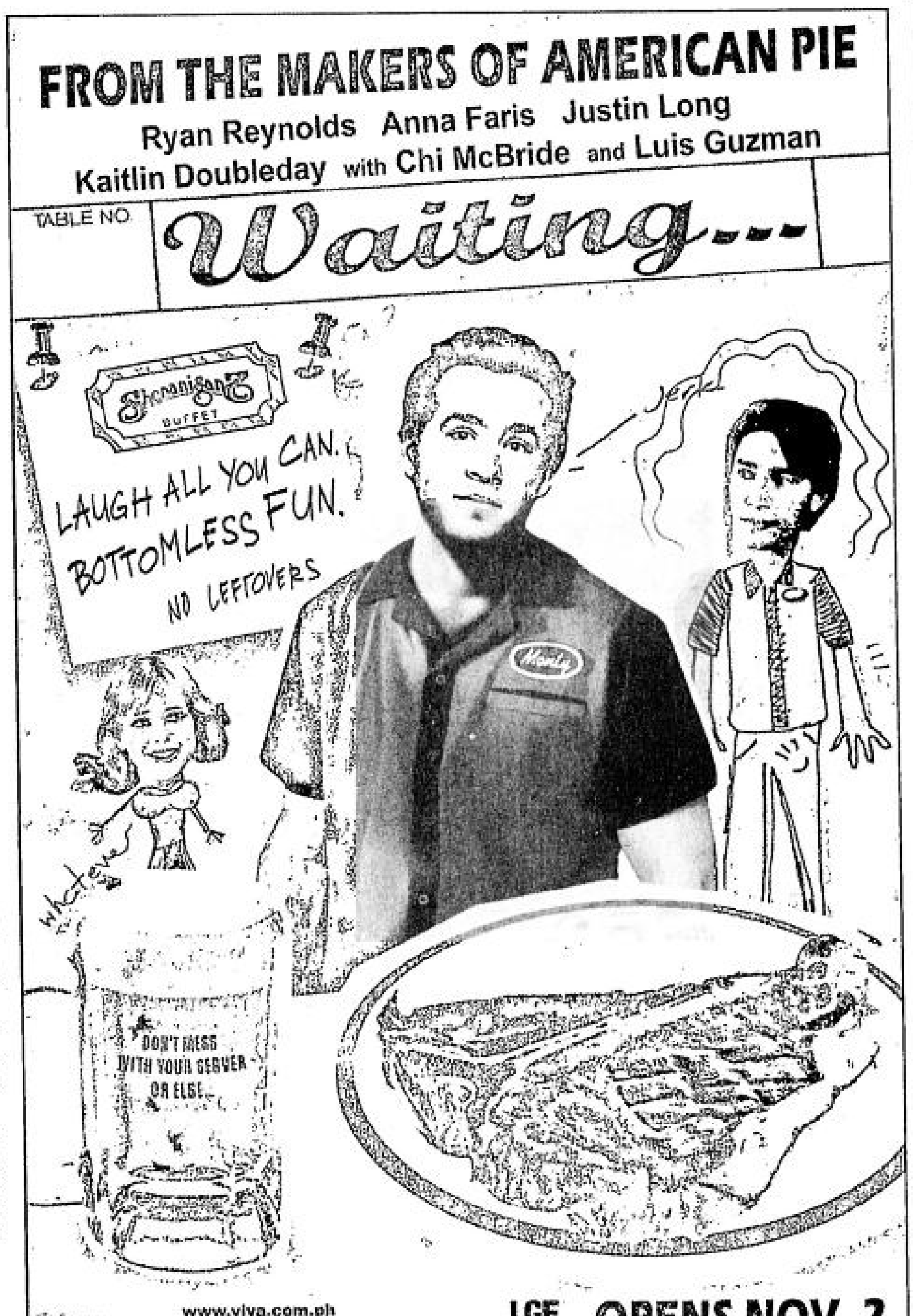

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IAN de Leon in the new 'Panday' TV series

Nora's son says he's no druggie

By Nini Valera

IAN DE LEON WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO shake off his image as a drug user and says he has never seen his mother, actress Nora Aunor—who is facing drug-related charges in the United States—do drugs.

"Talk that I was into drugs ruined my career and my life," De Leon told INQUIRER Entertainment in a recent exclusive interview. "[Even now] people ask. When I tell them I'm not, they refuse to believe. *Bahala sila.*"

When asked about Nora's legal problems, he said, "I just want to tell everybody that she's fine, that she's doing well. She'll get over it, and I know she will. I just spoke to her on the phone and she told me not to worry."

Peace

He wants nothing less than peace for his extended family. He is the eldest of 10 siblings—there's Lotlot, Matet, Kiko and Kenneth; and Rafael, Miguel, Gabriel, Mariel, and Michaela, dad Christopher's children with Sandy Andolong.

"Despite our age differences, we respect one another," said Ian, 29. "I don't want anything [bad] to happen to my mom, my dad, or to any of my siblings."

Ian's last acting job was two years ago, when he portrayed one of the kidnap men in the movie about Cory Quirino's abduction. He also appeared in a soap for GMA 7, playing one of the bad guys.

"I still consider myself as an actor," said Ian, admitting that he went into various small businesses in order to survive when the movie offers stopped coming. "[I am] the son of Christopher de Leon and Nora Aunor; their passion for acting is in my genes."

New role

Thus, he did not think twice when ABS-CBN offered him the role of Domingo, leader of a leper tribe, in the cineserye "Panday," which starts airing next month.

"As the leader of this tribe of lepers, my mission is to get a certain artifact to free my people," Ian said of his role in Carlo J. Caparas' epic tale. "I play a good guy who would do anything, even kill, for my people. I hook up with Panday (played by Jericho Rosales) to fulfill my mission."

For Ian, there are no small roles. But being a child of movie icons, he feels the pressure.

"I have to live up to expectations," he confided. "If people get disappointed, they start talking behind my back. I'm just *makulit* by nature. I am always joking around, especially around my brothers and sisters. People misinterpret this. I just wish they'd let me be myself."

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Megamall
AN UNFINISHED LIFE
Nov. 29 • Cinema 2

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976

1 FLIGHT PLAN
12:30FS/01:00MF/03:10/05:20/07:30
09:10LFS/09:40LMF/11:20END

2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
12:30FS/01:00MF/03:40/06:20
08:30LFS/09:00LMF/11:10END

MEGAMALL

1 DOOM
11:00FS/11:15MF/01:20/03:25/05:30/07:35
09:20LFS/09:40LMF/11:25END

CEBU (032) 231-3876

1 FLIGHT PLAN
12:10FS/12:20MF/02:10/04:00/05:50/07:40
09:20LFS/09:30LMF/11:10END

2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
12:10FS/12:18MF/02:36/04:54/07:12
09:22LFS/09:30LMF/11:40END

3 TRANSPORTER 2
12:10FS/12:20MF/02:10/04:00/05:50/07:40
09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:00END

SM MEGAMALL
1 DOOM
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 FLIGHT PLAN
6 LORD OF WAR
7 DUBAI
8 ISPIRITISTA
9 LEGEND OF ZORRO
10 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
11 DEUCE BIGALOW
12 MY SASSY GIRL

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 DOOM
4 FLIGHT PLAN
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 DEUCE BIGALOW
7 DUBAI
8 LORD OF WAR
9 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
10 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 MY SASSY GIRL
4 DOOM

SM VALENZUELA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 DOOM
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
2 LORD OF WAR
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 DOOM
5 DEUCE BIGALOW
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 LEGEND OF ZORRO
8 MY SASSY GIRL
9 FLIGHT PLAN
10 ISPIRITISTA
11 LAND OF THE DEAD
12 DUBAI

SM SOUTHMALL
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 FLIGHT PLAN
4 DOOM
5 MY SASSY GIRL
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 DEUCE BIGALOW
8 DUBAI
9 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
10 LORD OF WAR

SM SAN LAZARO
1 DUBAI
2 FLIGHT PLAN
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LORD OF WAR
5 MY SASSY GIRL
6 DEUCE BIGALOW
7 DOOM
8 FLIGHT PLAN

SM CITY MANILA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 DOOM
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 MY SASSY GIRL
6 FLIGHT PLAN
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 DEUCE BIGALOW
9 ISPIRITISTA
10 LORD OF WAR
11 DUBAI
12 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN

SM CITY MARILAO
1 FLIGHT PLAN
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 MY SASSY GIRL
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 ISPIRITISTA

JODIE FOSTER
At 37,000 Feet Her Daughter Has Disappeared
FLIGHTPLAN
BUCKLE UP NOVEMBER 9
MTRCB Rating: PG-13

Special advance screenings at regular ticket prices on October 31 and November 1 at the following branches: Bacoor, Bicutan, Cebu, Dasmariñas, Davao, Fairview, Manila, Marilao, Megamall, North EDSA, Pampanga, San Lazaro, Southmall, Sta. Mesa, Sucat and The Podium

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 FLIGHT PLAN
6 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 PERFECT CATCH
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

SM CITY BACOOR
1 FLIGHT PLAN
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 DUBAI
8 DOOM

SM CITY SUCAT
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 INTO THE BLUE
4 FLIGHT PLAN

SM CITY DASMARINA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 DOOM
4 FLIGHT PLAN

SM CITY LUCENA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 DUBAI

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 FLIGHT PLAN
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 DOOM
5 WALLACE AND GROMIT
6 DUBAI
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 LORD OF WAR

SM CITY ILOILO
1 ONE MISSED CALL 2
2 RESERVED
3 DUBAI
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
7 RESERVED
8 BLADE OF ROSE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 LORD OF WAR
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 DUBAI
5 INTO THE BLUE
6 FLIGHT PLAN

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 CROW 4
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 TRANSPORTER 2

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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GUARANTEED SEATS

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1	FLIGHT PLAN SNEAK PREVIEW	11:40, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	R-13
2	THE LEGEND OF ZORRO	11:05, 2:05, 5:05, 8:05, 11:05	GP
3	THE LEGEND OF ZORRO	1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 10:25	GP
4	40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN	12:50, 3:25, 6:00, 8:35, 11:05	R-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA

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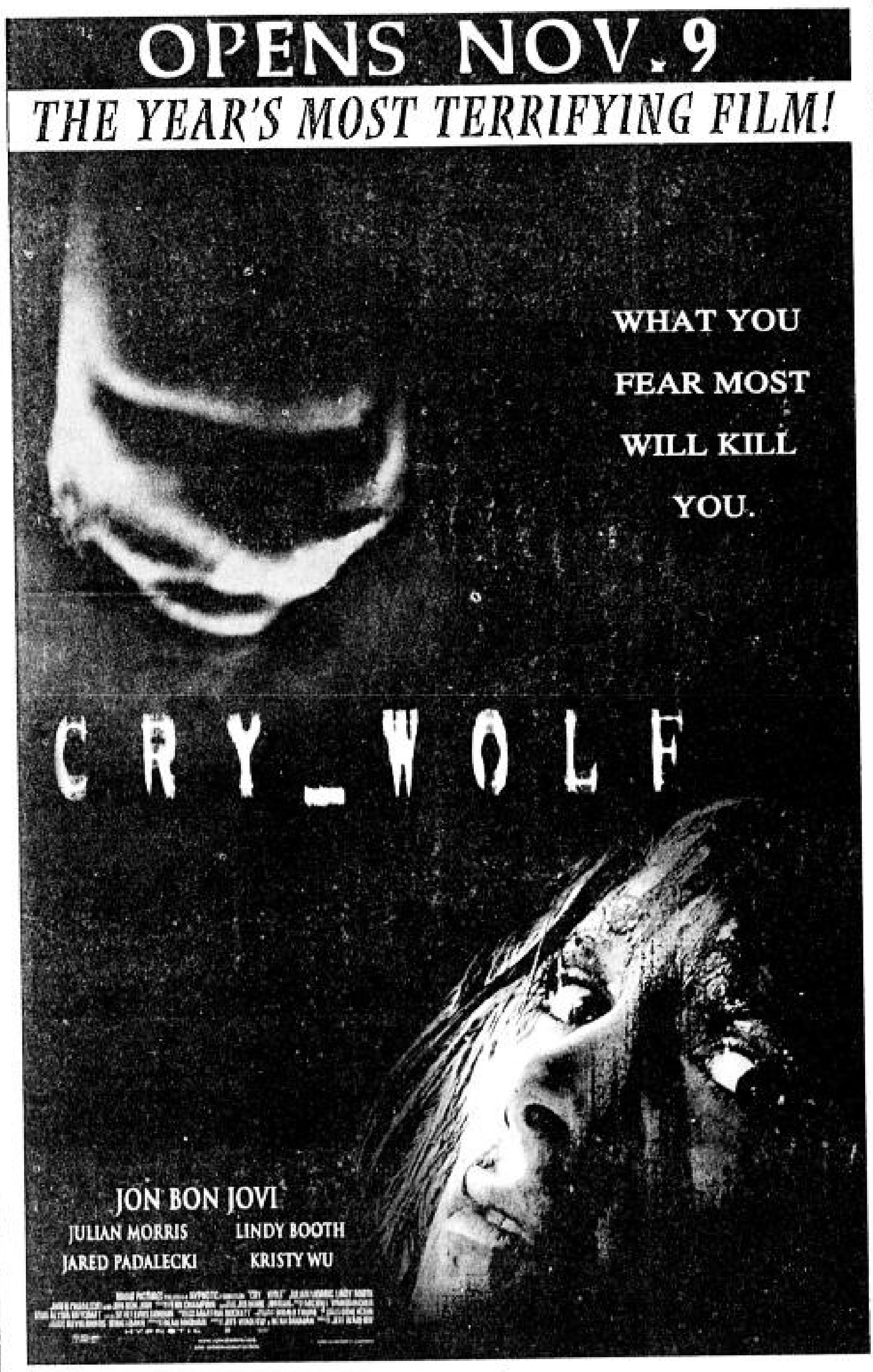
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL - GP 1:20,3:25 LORD OF WAR R13 5:30,8:00	THE LEGEND OF ZORRO GP 12:10,2:50,5:30,8:10	FLIGHT PLAN PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55
DOOM R13 1:45,3:55,6:05,8:15	THE LEGEND OF ZORRO GP 1:00,3:40,6:20	THE LEGEND OF ZORRO GP 1:50,4:30,7:10



Araneta Center Leisure Guide

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THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
12:10 / 1:20 / 2:55 / 4:05 / 5:40 / 6:50 / 8:25 / 9:35

ISPIRITISTA
12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30

MY SASSY GIRL
12:20 / 3:20 / 6:20 / 9:20

DEUCE BIGALOW 2
1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30

FLIGHT PLAN
12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA

THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
12:45 / 3:30 / 6:15 / 9:00

DOOM
2:15 / 4:40 / 7:05 / 9:30

DUBAI
1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10

THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN
1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1 ISPIRITISTA
12:00 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20

2 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
12:00 R2 / 2:40 / 5:40 / 8:40

3 FLIGHT PLAN
12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30

4 MY SASSY GIRL
12:05 R2 / 2:45 / 5:45 / 8:45

5 DOOM
12:45 / 3:10 / 5:35 / 8:00

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ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

Nov 6 Sunday | GINEBRA vs AIR 21 4:10 pm | ALASKA vs TALK N TEXT 6:40 pm
Nov. 9 Wed | SAN MIGUEL vs STA LUCIA 4:40 pm | COCA COLA vs PUREFOODS 7:25 pm

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FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9116

- 1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2• THX 1:30 4:20 7:20 10:00
- 2 ISPIRITISTA 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
- 3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
- 4 MY SASSY GIRL 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
- 5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2 11:10 2:00 4:50 7:50 10:30
- 6 DOOM 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
- 7 LORD OF WAR 12:20 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
- 8 MASAHISTA 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
- 9 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN 12:00 2:25 5:05 7:45 10:00
- 10 FLIGHT PLAN Sneak Preview

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

- 1 ISPIRITISTA 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
- 2 MY SASSY GIRL 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
- 3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
- 4 FLIGHT PLAN Sneak Preview
- 5 LORD OF WAR 10:30 12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00
- 6 DOOM 10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 10:00
- 7 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2 10:30 1:20 4:10 7:00 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

- 1 FLIGHT PLAN Sneak Preview
- 2 ISPIRITISTA 10:45 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05
- 3 ISPIRITISTA 1:20 3:55 6:30
- 4 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2 12:55 3:35 6:15 9:00
- 5 DOOM 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
- 6 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN 12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00
- 7 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2 12:05 2:45 5:25 8:05
- 8 MY SASSY GIRL 1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

- 1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
- 2 ISPIRITISTA
- 3 DOOM
- 3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
- 4 LORD OF WAR
- 5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

- 1 ISPIRITISTA
- 2 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
- 3 RESERVE
- 4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

- 1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
- 2 MY SASSY GIRL
- 3 FLIGHT PLAN Sneak Preview
- 4 ISPIRITISTA

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- 1 ISPIRITISTA
- 2 ISPIRITISTA
- 3 CORPSE BRIDE
- 4 FLIGHT PLAN Sneak Preview
- 5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

- 1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
- 2 ISPIRITISTA
- 3 THE DESCENT
- 4 CORPSE BRIDE

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

- 1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
- 2 CORPSE BRIDE
- 3 ISPIRITISTA
- 4 DOOM
- 5 FLIGHT PLAN Sneak Preview

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

- 1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
- 2 ISPIRITISTA
- 3 FLIGHT PLAN Sneak Preview
- 4 TRANSPORTER 2

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

- 1 ISPIRITISTA
- 2 FLIGHT PLAN Sneak Preview
- 3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
- 4 DOOM

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

- 1 ISPIRITISTA
- 2 ISPIRITISTA
- 3 MASAHISTA
- 4 TRANSPORTER 2
- 5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
- 6 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

- 1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
- 2 INTO THE BLUE
- 3 ISPIRITISTA
- 4 LORD OF WAR
- 5 LAND OF THE DEAD
- 6 TRANSPORTER 2

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

- 1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
- 2 ISPIRITISTA
- 3 BLADE OF THE ROSE
- 4 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
- 5 ONE MISSED CALL 2

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 FLIGHTPLAN	2 LEGEND OF ZORRO	3 MY SASSY GIRL	4 ISPIRITISTA			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 LEGEND OF ZORRO	2 ISPIRITISTA	3 THX LEGEND OF ZORRO 2 00, 4 50, 7 40, 10 10 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DOOM	5 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	6 FLIGHTPLAN	7 THE 40 YR. OLD VIRGIN
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:45	2 CINEMANILA For inquiries, call 750-4180 to 81					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX LEGEND OF ZORRO 1 35, 4 20, 7 05, 9 50 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX FLIGHTPLAN 1 05, 3 20, 5 35, 7 50, 10 05 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 THE 40 YR. OLD VIRGIN 1.50, 4 15, 6 40, 9 05, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 FLIGHTPLAN 2 15, 4 30, 6 45, 9 00, 11 15 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 LEGEND OF ZORRO 3 00, 5 45, 8 30, 11 15 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX LEGEND OF ZORRO	2 FLIGHTPLAN	3 DOOM	4 ISPIRITISTA	5 LEGEND OF ZORRO		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 LEGEND OF ZORRO	2 TRANSPORTER 2	3 WALLACE & GROMIT	4 FLIGHTPLAN			

JODIE FOSTER
FLIGHTPLAN
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- ① THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
- ② MY SASSY GIRL
- ③ DEUCE BIGALOW: The European Gigolo
- ④ DOOM
- ⑤ ISPIRITISTA

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Oct. 22, 11am - 2pm, Central Plaza
ZEN FOUNTAIN MAKING DEMO & WORKSHOP
FLORAL ARRANGEMENT WORKSHOP

Oct. 29, 11am - 2pm, Central Plaza
SOUTH BEACH DIET ON A BUDGET
SCULPTURED TREATS

Nov. 6, Central Plaza
CULINARY MEET

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

A Unicef award for ABS-CBN show

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"THE CORRESPONDENTS," produced by ABS-CBN, won this year's ABU (Asian Broadcasting Union) CASBAA (Cable Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia) Unicef Child Rights Award, besting 50 entries from 12 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Awarding ceremony was held on Friday in Hong Kong.

Karen Davila, program host, accepted the citation for the documentary, "Batang Preso (Juvenile Injustice)."

The award is presented annually to "the best television programming on children's rights produced in the Asian-Pacific region," according to the organizers' web site. The project is on its fifth year. Previous winners were Hong Kong (2002, 2004), Japan (2001) and the Philippines (GMA 7, 2003).

This year's winner exposed the lives of children, ages 5 to 17, "thrown in jail for the pettiest crimes," and tackled "options for an alternative rehabilitation facility and method."

One of the judges, Michael Peschardt, a BBC correspondent and host, commented: "We've never seen a more graphic presentation [about] children in jail . . . the images were very powerful. They got access not just [into] the jail, but into the lives of the children."

Davila told INQUIRER: "Doing this docu was very personal to me. [Meeting] the kids in the Navotas City Jail was a heartbreaking experience. They are symbols of how we, as adults and as a society, have failed them."

She acknowledged the work of segment producers Chiara Zambrano and Karen Namora; and cameramen Mar Soriaga, Ariel Fulgado and Dong Plaza.

ABU/CASBAA
UNICEF CHILD RIGHTS AWARD 2005
Karen Davila, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.
The Correspondents: Juvenile Injustice

KAREN Davila shows off coveted citation.

NOEL NIEVA

What their epitaphs would say

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

VISITING MY MOM'S TOMB IN THE cemetery is something I will never get used to. It's the third All Souls' Day since she left for her "talk show with God" but my memories of her are so vivid, I keep forgetting she's no longer here. I see her in the smiles of the countless stars she has helped one way or the other. I hear her in the laughter of her friends whose lives were enriched by her presence. I feel her in the embrace of my brother, sister and kids who, just like me, have a little of Mom in them. Her life taught me much but her death taught me even more.

As we all remember our dearly departed I asked some stars what lessons they have learned from their loved ones who have passed on and also how they would like to be remembered in their epitaphs. Mine would read, "One who lived love and loved life!"

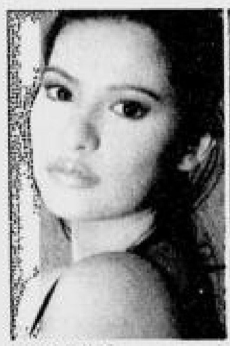
RUFA MAE QUINTO: Love yourself. Listen when your body talks. Be good, do good and pray all the time. Those are the things my dad taught me before he passed away. I want people to still laugh when they remember me after I die. I'd like my epitaph to read, "Go, go, girl! To the highest level *na talaga ito*—Heaven!!!"

RYAN AGONCILLO: I learned from my late uncle that a pack of cigarettes and a cup of coffee in good company is infinitely better than the best cigars and expensive cognac with posers. My epitaph? "That's all folks!!"

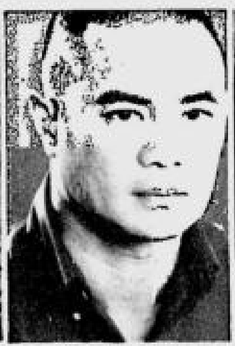
ASSUNTA DE ROSSI: We shouldn't take loved ones for granted because we just never know when they will leave. I want this to be on my epitaph—"This Goddess has joined God."

MONSOUR DEL ROSARIO: My Lolo Manoling taught me that it's not the size of the dog in the fight that matters but the size of the fight in the dog. My tombstone would say, "A man of steel with the heart of a boy."

CHINA COJUANGCO: My Tito Ted passed away last Friday. I didn't get a chance to say goodbye or to tell him that I loved him. Life is indeed short. We should live each day as if it were our last! I'd like this to be engraved on my tombstone—"Mummy Cheenz, still drop-dead gorgeous."



ASSUNTA DE ROSSI



MONSOUR DEL ROSARIO

LANI MERCADO

RUFA MAE QUINTO

RYAN AGONCILLO

JED MADELA

CHINA COJUANGCO

JED MADELA: My mentor, Bella Tan, instilled in me that the size of your success is determined by the size of your belief. She taught me to be patient; it's staying power that counts. I'd like my epitaph to be, "Grand Champion Performer of the World now with the Choir of Angels."

LANI MERCADO-REVILLA: My dad was told me to always be an asset to my family. That's what I try to do. My epitaph would read, "A mother who died fighting for her family."

LLOYD SAMARTINO: Life is fragile and precious. We should live to the fullest. My epitaph—"One who brought joy and laughter through God's light!"

TINTIN BERSOLA-BABAO: I learned from my late grandparents the importance of studies and the power of prayer. For my epitaph—"Father in Heaven, in life and in death, always Thy will be done."

SUZI ENTRATA-ABRERA: My father-in-law taught by example. In a group, he would always talk to whomever didn't have any one to converse with. It taught me to be more sensitive to people around me. My epitaph? "The best mother and wife she could be."

PHOEMELA BARANDA: "When my dad passed on, he left me with the lesson that money is not everything; and that credibility is earned over time and can't be bought. My tombstone would say, "Remember me when you party!"

Shan Chai back

After becoming the envy of nearly every teenage girl in the country, Barbie Xu, more popularly known as Shan Chai of "Meteor Garden," returns to the Philippine scene with the release of her new film, "The Ghost Inside."

In "Meteor Garden," Barbie left the hunky male leads mesmerized with her charms. In her new movie, it is a mysterious stranger that becomes entranced with Barbie, causing her life much turmoil. "The Ghost Inside" opens in selected theaters Nov. 2.

FOR FEEDBACK E-Mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

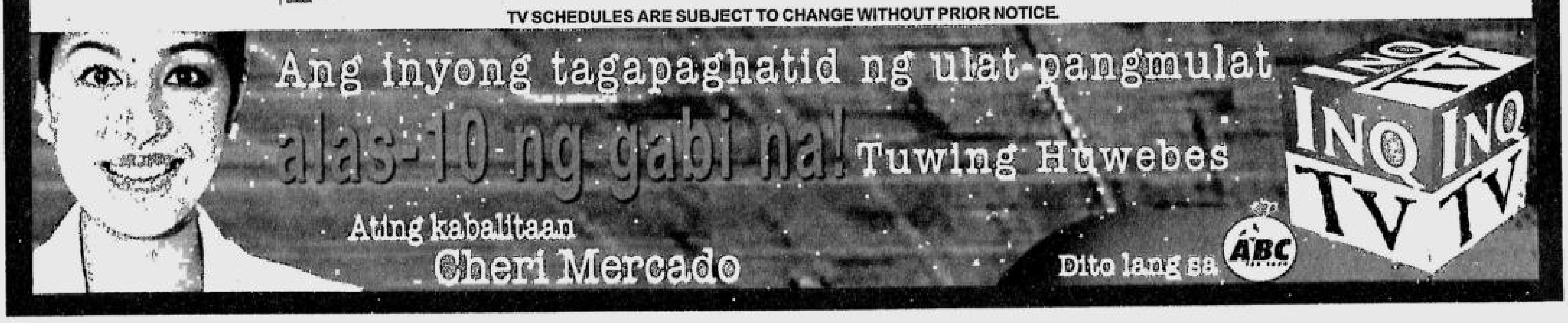
Tuesday November 1, 2005

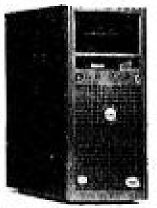
Laura Jean
club tv
Saturday_8pm
feel_the_vibe
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Pinoy Big Brother	Bora			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		ESPN or WNCAA Finals				Sentro	Mumbai Thriller	Sugat Sa Puli				Big News	The Apprentice		ALI	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Sassy Girl	Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Real Gilligan's Island		The Cat 1		Paradise Hotel		Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Japan Video Topics		ME TV		Nuts	Outrageous	King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Buhay Pinoy	
Studio 23								Get Backers	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	The Rebel Billionaire	Angel		Smallville		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	MTV Screen	Spring Break	Diyes		Punk'D	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				MTV Hits	Get Spotted	TRL		Advance Warning	Pimp My Ride	MTV Hits	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYXLOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Top Of The Pops		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN												Sportscenter Asia	Sports Desk					Sports Desk	
Solar Sports														US 9-Ball Open 2005					
Sports Plus				NFL 2005						Monster Jam		World's Greatest Auto Shows		MBNA 500 Highlights		Celebrity Poker Tournament			
Cinemax			Try To Remember				Fever			Something To Talk About				Patriot Games				No Way Up (10:55PM)	
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Wire In The Blood		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Mysterious Way		Wire In The Blood		Hawking			Agency II (10:35PM)		Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unlalkative Bunny	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Phil Of The Future	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		The Pacific War		Journey To The Bottom Of The Sea		Wild Science		Warrior Women With Lucy Lawless Year 2002		Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery		Extreme Survival		Mostly True Stories	
National Geographic		Interpol Investigates		Air Crash Investigation		Is It Real?		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Catastrophe: Hurricane Floyd/National Geographic Specials DNA Mystery Search For Adam		Interpol Investigates/ 7/7: Attack On London		Air Crash Investigation	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Johnny Bravo	Codename Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	The Looney Tunes Show		Courage The Cowardly Dog	What's New Scooby Doo?	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Codename Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Romeo	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	Second Look		Look For Less	Life & Style		Who's Wedding Is It Anyway?		Road & Track	Back To Basics
Star World	Becker	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Ed		Desperate Housewives		Tru Calling		Friends	Ed
AXN		Lost		Lost		Sports Disasters IV		Beastmaster		Pensacola (Season III)		The Amazing Race Family Edition				House		Las Vegas	
JackTV	Family Guy	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Beat The Geeks	WWE Bottomline		WWE Aftarburn		X-Play	Banzai	Mad TV		Trigger Happy TV	Primetime Glick	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Ren & Stimpy Adult Party Cartoon	Family Guy	Wwe Heat	
ETC		Good Morning Miami	Knock First	1 Hr Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	JKX	Simple Life	One Tree Hill		For Love Or Money		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO			That Championship Season (3:45 PM)				Deadly Visions			Multiplicity				Deadwood 11: Jewel's Boot Is Made For Walking		Deadwood 12: Sold Under Sin		Escape From L.A. (11:05PM)	
Star Movies			Shoot To Kill (3:45 PM)				The Country Bears (5:40 PM)			Nutty Professor II: The Klumps				Chain Reaction				Jakob The Liar (10:50PM)	
EWTN	Angels Of God	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Saints For The Third Millenium: St. Therese Of Lisieux	Faith Factory B	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Pope John Paul's Legacy To The Family	Pope Pius XII	The Journey Home		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (8:15 PM)	Swear To God	The Sacraments Through The Ages	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Web Of Faith	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.


Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV



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Website: www.inq7money.net
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Gov't wants to further ease VAT impact

Additional cut in tariff on petroleum products eyed

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION IS LOOKing at ways to further ease the impact of the new VAT law on commodities.

One such measure being considered is the reduction of tariffs on petroleum products.

Finance Secretary Margarito "Gary" Teves said the government's economic team was studying the benefits of having more measures to mitigate the impact of the VAT Reform Law, which takes effect today.

"I think we will have some concrete idea after the first quarter," Teves told reporters in a briefing on fiscal developments last week.

"One proposed measure is to reduce tariff on petroleum products to two or one percent. But I am not going to commit myself to any figure because I don't know yet what the revenue collection would be like."

Under the original list of mitigating measures, tariff on petroleum products will be reduced from 5 percent to 3 percent starting today.

Teves said the implementation of additional mitigating measures would depend on the government's revenue-collection performance in the first quarter of next year.

If revenue figures were to show that the government would be on track to meet its fiscal target for 2006, then additional mitigating measures could be be implemented, he said.

For 2006, the government aims to reduce its budget deficit to P125 billion from the programmed target of P180 billion this year.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, one of the eco-

GOV'T/ B2

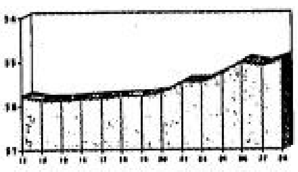
WHAT'S INSIDE

PSE looks for buyers of its shares /B2

Prime land in Global City up for sale, lease /B8

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



OCTOBER
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 54.94 = $
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 28, 2005

Y 115.18 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 28, 2005

GOLD: $474.10-474.60
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 28, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Trading will resume tomorrow, Nov. 2.

Tax men go after 'death merchants'

ILOILO CITY—THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue has started to go after funeral parlor operators suspected of paying taxes not commensurate to the income they generate in the deathly business.

The initiative came from the BIR office in this province, where quite a number of funeral parlors were said to have been under-declaring their income.

The effort to run after tax-evading funeral homes started some three months ago, revenue officials here said.

BIR branch officials said they would detect dishonesty in tax payments by using third-party sources in auditing—that is, checking civil registry records for the number of, and other information on, recent deaths, and comparing the data with the income declarations of funeral homes.

Under-declared

"Some funeral parlors here do not issue receipts," said Ricardo Espiritu, revenue district office of the BIR office in Iloilo City. "They pay taxes, but based on under-declared income."

He said the BIR office was only collecting about 40 percent of the total potential tax revenues—including income tax and value-added tax—from funeral parlors.

Espiritu said that to address the problem of tax delinquency, the BIR office conducted a dialogue with owners of funeral homes and told them to rectify their past tax payments.

While conceding that most funeral parlors were cooperative and willing to correct their tax payments, Espiritu said those that would fail to respond to the BIR's call would be charged with tax evasion.

Welcome initiative

According to Jose Mario Buñag, BIR officer-in-charge, efforts to improve tax compliance among constituents of BIR offices would be a welcome initiative to help the government improve its tax collection and plug the gaping budget deficit.

Rodita Galanto, officer in charge and assistant regional director of the BIR office in Iloilo City, said that going after tax-delinquent funeral parlors was one of the measures it implemented to maintain good revenue-collection performance.

Galanto, in a report presented to Finance Secretary Margarito "Gary" Teves during his visit to the province last week, said the BIR branch in Iloilo City was tasked to collect P282.449 million for 2005.

But as early as September, it has already surpassed the full-year collection goal, according to Galanto.

Collection target exceeded

She said that as of end-September, its tax collection already stood at P305.795 million, or 8 percent higher than its 2005 target.

She also noted that for September alone, the BIR office collected P48 million, thus surpassing its P22-million target for the month by a significant 121 percent.

Teves acknowledged the performance of the BIR office in Iloilo in surpassing its collection target.

The finance chief, who has gone on to visit BIR offices in the provinces to monitor their tax collection efforts, said he would like other BIR offices to adopt some of the strategies of the Iloilo office which he said has consistently met revenue collection targets.
Michelle V. Remo

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DEMUTUALIZATION PROGRAM

PSE looks for buyers of its shares

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE IS SEEKING buyers for roughly 15 percent of its shares as it seeks to break the stock brokers' control over the local bourse, said PSE president Francis Ed. Lim.

Lim said the PSE board has passed a resolution to fully demutualize or convert the PSE into a stock corporation.

This was in line with securities laws that limit ownership of an exchange to not more than 5 percent for any individual and 20 percent for any industry or group.

Options available to the PSE to comply with the law include finding a strategic partner, offering its shares to the public through an initial public offering (IPO) and implementing an employee stock option plan.

Lim said the board has decided to look for a financial adviser to help PSE comply with the law and come up with the best option.

"We would like to see that at the end of the day, we will get the best price for PSE shares," Lim said in a briefing late Friday.

He explained that 35.3 percent of the PSE shares are still held by stock brokers.

Brokers should sell another 15 percent to comply with the 20 percent industry limit.

As of last Friday, shares of the PSE closed at P145 a share.

Singapore investment firm Kim Eng Group earlier sold the equivalent of 7 percent of PSE shares to undisclosed foreign funds for P153.7 million.

Broker ATR Kim Eng Securities sold 1.06 million PSE shares at P145 each.

Sources at the brokerage, however, could not comment on the transaction citing confidentiality agreements.

The Kim Eng Group, through Kim Eng Investment Ltd. and KE Strategic Pte. Ltd., holds 9.1 percent of PSE.

The Kim Eng Group was one of the strategic investors that bought a combined 40 percent of the PSE early last year at P119.46 a share.

The other investors are Government Service Insurance System, PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund, SMC Retirement Fund, foreign consultancy firm Equinox Partners and listed holding firm A. Soriano Corp.

The stock brokers used to own all the shares in the PSE, which investors said made the local bourse vulnerable to the individual interests of the brokerage firms.

By limiting ownership to 20 percent for any group, it was hoped that the rights of minority shareholders would be protected and the capital market would be further developed.

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Department of penance

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

HORRIFYING NEW EVIDENCE KEEPS ON coming out, mainly reaching the business sector.

It shows that this embattled but still cute administration of Gloriaetta is suffering from a cover-up syndrome with acute paralysis.

Is anybody even minding the store, boss-ma'am?

An office of the Department of Budget and Management, according to the news reports, providentially burned down the other day.

The, er, "accident" hopefully stopped any disillusioned personnel from taking out some damaging data in this time of political siege at the Palace.

Luckily for this cute administration, the fire destroyed only computers.

They probably contain nothing but sensitive info on this cute administration's spending.

By sheer coincidence, Congress is also looking into the mystery behind this cute administration's use of that multimillion-peso fund to subsidize fertilizer used by farmers, such as the "farmers" in Metro Manila.

Whether the fire was a well-planned accident, *este*, "incident" *pala*, is now beside the point.

Basta—it should never happen in a vital government office like the DBM.

Somebody ought to answer for it, Romy!

***

BUT it seems that this cute administration cannot be bothered with anything at this time—except perhaps politics.

Anything that has something to do with the economy, it simply sends to autopilot mode.

As one corporate executive aptly remarked during the recent Philippine Business Conference: "such unprecedented inaction!"

The same impression, damaging as it is to the business psyche, reaches the fair city of Cebu.

That was the area that delivered the presidency to Gloriaetta, by virtue of more than 90 percent of the voters casting their ballots in the last elections, 95 percent of whom voted for you-know-who.

It was something unheard of, even in Lanao.

Yet the business community in Cebu cannot seem to catch Gloriaetta's attention regarding its problem with the Bureau of Customs—or more precisely, with the customs collector there.

In fact, the Cebu-based newspapers have talked about the problem incessantly.

By some miracle, they failed to get any reaction from the Department of Finance.

And so, the problem of Cebu-based businesses goes on, thanks to the return of the bata system in DOF under Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

Reports in Cebu indicated that nobody, but nobody at all, can transact business with the customs bureau there unless the business has something to do with the ACTING customs collector, a woman named Lourdes Mangaoang.

***

ACCORDING to, customs bureau insiders, Gloriaetta already signed the appointment of a new customs collector in Cebu, precisely because of the mounting complaints arising in her supposed bailiwick.

Gloriaetta appointed a soon-to-retire customs official to replace Mangaoang. Thank heavens!

According to Cebu newspapers, she got so lucky in Cebu that she now drives either a brand new Isuzu Trooper and Ford Everest, which she parks at a townhouse in an exclusive gated subdivision there.

By some mysterious force of the universe, somebody in DOF did not implement the appointment of Gloriaetta.

Again—that's Gloriaetta already, forgodsakes!

Does anybody still listen to her? Well, it is possible that Gloriaetta does not know the whole story. It is also possible that she is too busy with politics.

Blocked by mysterious forces in DOF, the appointment of the new customs collector in Cebu could have pacified the business community there.

Now they are up in arms against the DOF, and possibly against the Palace.

Supposedly, according to DOF insiders, Teves did not implement the Palace appointment because the new appointee had court cases.

Teves apparently held the appointment as her penance. What's that—department of penance?

It turned out that, indeed, the new appointee had a pending criminal case. The only thing was, in that case, she was the complainant.

***

BUT then again, somebody must be feeding Teves the wrong information. Who can it be now? Well, there are endless possibilities.

One of them could be the former BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno, one of the Hyatt 10, that group of high government officials who resigned from this cute administration, dramatizing their action by calling on Gloriaetta to do the same.

Word is out that Teves, upon taking over from another Hyatt 10 leading actor, former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, maintained Parayno as consultant.

Whether it explains why some unnamed sources in DOF are making a lot of noise about the BIR's performance a few weeks ago, is up to you.

But the thing is, everybody in the customs bureau already heard all those whispers about the, ahh, "close encounter" between Parayno and Mangaoang.

By "close relationship," the customs bureau insiders refer to something that starts with "extra." Hint: it's not "extraterrestial affair."

In Cebu, therefore, business people continue to complain about the extraordinary "tara" at the customs, discouraging them from doing business, except of course with prior arrangement with the customs bureau.

And so to the business community in Cebu, the only question is, how come the Palace tolerates this foolishness?

Villar firm to invest ₱12B in new property projects

PROPERTY FIRM BRITTANY CORP., A SISTER company of House Speaker Manuel Villar's C&P Homes Inc., is setting aside at least P12 billion for three major development projects.

Nova Noval, head of corporate communications of Brittany Corp., said after the recently held Good News Kapihan at the Global Café that Brittany planned to develop a 150 hectare property in Dasmariñas, Cavite into an information technology park.

Noval said initially, 10 hectares of the proposed IT park would be launched.

The project was estimated to cost around P7 billion.

Brittany likewise plans to build a residential project in Sta. Rosa , Laguna for P5 billion. The residential project aims to lure the upper middle class market to buy lots measuring at least 180 square meters.

The lots were expected to be sold at between P6 million and P10 million each.

Noval also said Brittany was looking at a housing project on a 20-ha property in Alabang , Muntinlupa City.

She declined, however, to reveal details of the project.

Brittany's projects are located in Southern Manila, specifically, Brittany Bay at Sucat; Portofino at Alabang; La Marea at San Pedro Laguna; Crosswinds at Tagaytay; Vita Toscana and Residenza at Bacoor Cavite; Island Park at Dasmariñas Cavite; La Residencia, Fontamara, Belle Reve and Promenade at Sta. Rosa Laguna and Cottonwoods at Antipolo.

At the newest phase of its Portofino project dubbed Courtyards II of Portofino, Brittany offers homes inspired by classic courtyard homes in Italy.

Four types of courtyard homes are available: Rembrandt (260 sq.m.), Raphael (249 sq.m.), Cezanne (193 sq.m.) and Monet (233 sq.m.).

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 28, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31	30.5	31	357,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51.5	52.5	51	52	1,522,500
China Banking Corp.	610	610	610	610	600
Citystate Savings Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.55	0.57	0.55	0.57	1,120,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48	48	47.5	48	199,300
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	211,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26.5	27	26	26	422,000
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	1,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	30.5	31	30.5	31	25,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	1,300
Manulife Financial Corp.	2825	2825	2825	2825	760
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	9,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	145	145	145	20
Sun Life Financial Inc	2000	2010	2000	2010	1,750
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	15,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.89	1,340,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	705	710	705	705	6,200
Ipeople Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	50,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	5,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.049	0.047	0.049	200,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.9	1,123,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1660	1680	1660	1675	240,220
Ivantage Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	1,650,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	11,600,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	1,900
Manila Electric Co. B	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	111,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	1,280,000
Petron Corp.	3.35	3.4	3.35	3.4	1,079,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.97	0.99	0.97	0.99	90,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.3	9.5	9.3	9.4	511,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.66	140,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	29,041,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.54	1,510,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.55	3.6	3.55	3.55	1,374,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	36.5	35.5	36.5	159,400
RFM Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	40,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	65	64	65	16,000
San Miguel Corp. B	89	90	89	90	224,100
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	15.75	15.75	5,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,490,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	287.5	290	287.5	290	95,570
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	5	4.95	4.95	2,025,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	2,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.12	2.12	873,000
APC Group Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	170,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.97	1,900,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	350,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	940,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.05	3	3.05	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	880,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	43	42.5	42.5	274,200
House Of Investments Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	3,560,000
Ionics Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	66,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.95	4	3.95	4	1,845,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.4	1,138,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	8,410,000
Paxys Inc.	5.1	5.1	5	5	64,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.215	0.19	0.215	120,000
SM Investments Corp.	220	229	220	227	451,060
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	60,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	2,500,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	5,630,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.115	0.125	0.115	0.125	680,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3.7	4	3.7	3.7	39,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	90,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.9	510,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	1,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.75	0.75	100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.44	275,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	30,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	89,100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	26,000
Far Eastern University	610	610	610	610	400
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.9	4,735,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	8,800,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	160,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	1,120,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	2,349,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.21	0.195	0.21	230,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	800,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.9	307,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	20,000
SM Development Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	45,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.9	7.5	7.9	18,871,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	98,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	101,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	2,100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	2,360,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	196,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	7,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	8,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	560,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.22	7,089,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	25.5	25.5	116,700
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	20,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	6,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	160,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	500,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	5,143,730	183,911,875.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	94,100,650	676,828,560.00
PRO	37,437,000	195,438,760.00
Mining	321,526,700	17,498,780.00
OIL	26,660,000	325,700.00
GRAND TOTALS :	484,868,080	1,074,003,675.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	551.19	UP 5.53
Comm'l & Ind'l	3,081.05	UP 19.07
PRO	767.22	UP 16.25
Mining	2,443.01	DOWN 47.86
OIL	3.15	UP 0.13
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,191.02	UP 10.19
Composite	1,960.22	UP 18.76

NO. OF ADVANCES: 43; NO. OF DECLINES: 25; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 105; NO. OF TRADES: 2,040

CURRENCIES

October 31, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.823791	1.000000	55.0600
Japan	Yen	0.007137	0.008663	0.4770
United Kingdom	Pound	1.469231	1.783500	98.1995
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106241	0.128966	7.1009
Switzerland	Franc	0.646770	0.785114	43.2284
Canada	Dollar	0.702714	0.853024	46.9675
Singapore	Dollar	0.488086	0.592487	32.6223
Australia	Dollar	0.623753	0.757174	41.6900
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.185180	2.652590	146.0516
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219666	0.266652	14.6819
Brunei	Dollar	0.486644	0.590737	32.5260
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000100	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020221	0.024546	1.3515
UAE	Dirham	0.224308	0.272287	14.9921
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.213900	66.8373
Argentina	Peso	0.273004	0.331400	18.2469
Brazil	Real	0.360442	0.437541	24.0910
Denmark	Kroner	0.134048	0.162721	8.9594
India	Rupee	0.018331	0.022252	1.2252
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218263	0.264950	14.5881
Mexico	New Peso	0.075619	0.091794	5.0542
New Zealand	Dollar	0.581527	0.705916	38.8677
Norway	Kroner	0.128263	0.155698	8.5727
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013838	0.016798	0.9249
South Africa	Rand	0.123322	0.149701	8.2425
Korea	Won	0.000792	0.000962	0.0530
Sweden	Kroner	0.105054	0.127525	7.0215
Syria	Pound	0.015870	0.019264	1.0607
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024499	0.029739	1.6374
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000384	0.000466	0.0257

Gov't wants to further ease VAT impact

From page B1

nomic advisers of President Macapagal-Arroyo, is strongly pushing for the deferral of the implementation of the VAT law on oil and electricity. He warned that VAT on the two commodities would pose serious threats to a struggling economy like the Philippines.

The new law basically expanded the coverage of the VAT to include oil and electricity, among others, and will increase the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent starting January 2006. With the tax measure, the government expects to generate about P80 billion in additional revenue annually.

The Department of Finance said the government did not delay the implementation of the VAT law just to ease the impact of the tax measure on the prices of goods and services.

Teves said mitigating steps could be taken without affecting the VAT law.

Foreign investors and creditors have been waiting for the implementation of the VAT law, which is seen to be crucial in resolving the country's fiscal problems.

The delayed implementation of the law was blamed for the latest cut in the country's credit ratings.

The DOF said other mitigating measures, aside from the petroleum tariff cut, included the removal of excise tax on diesel, kerosene and fuel oil used for power generation, and the imposition of zero duty on liquefied petroleum gas.

WB wants more infrastructure spending

By Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD BANK HAS REITERated calls for the Philippine government to expand its budget for infrastructure, noting that limited spending for capital outlays over the past years has prevented the country from sharing in the economic gains of the region.

Joachim von Amsberg, World Bank country director for the Philippines, said the ideal scenario would be for the Philippine government to increase its spending for infrastructure to 5 percent of the country's gross domestic product. By doing so, Amsberg said, the Philippines could better compete with its neighboring countries in cornering foreign investments.

Currently, capital outlays stand only between 2 and 3 percent of GDP, Amsberg said. GDP, which is the value of goods and services produced in an economy, is the main barometer of a country's economic performance.

"While the Philippines is concerned with short-term issues, the world doesn't stop from moving," Amsberg said in a press briefing on the Philippines fiscal situation held last week. "The Philippines is part of a region that is dynamically developing, so it should not be stuck with specific issues to [be able to] actively take part of the dynamic developments."

To improve the country's taken-for-granted infrastructure system, Amsberg said the government should be able to collect revenues expected from its fiscal reform measures, such as the VAT Reform Law, which takes effect this month.

"The government has to increase revenues so it does not have to work on a compressed budget," Amsberg said.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that foreign direct investments (FDI) that entered the Philippines totaled $499 million in the January-to-July period. The figure reflected a substantial increase from the $241 million recorded in the same period last year, but is significantly smaller compared with the billions of dollars worth of investments cornered by other Asean countries.

The business community has often cited the country's poor infrastructure as one of the deterrents to pursuing investment plans.

Amsberg noted, however, that the Philippine government has an encouraging fiscal plan over the medium term. The country's ability to significantly improve the level of investments would hinge on the successful implementation of these plans.

According to the Department of Finance, part of the additional revenues to be generated from the recently implemented VAT Reform Law would be used to increase spending for capital outlays.

In particular, 30 percent of the additional P80 billion in revenues from the RVAT next year would be allocated for infrastructure and basic services. Since the tax measure was mainly for improvement of fiscal situation, 70 percent of the revenues will be used for deficit reduction.

The government aims to trim its budget deficit to P125 billion in 2006 from a projected P180 billion this year. It likewise targets to completely wipe out the deficit by 2008.

In 2007, the 30-percent share of infrastructure and basic services from VAT revenues would be increased to 35 percent. The budget for infrastructure and basic services would further be raised to 40 percent in 2008, 45 percent in 2009 and 50 percent in 2010.

Pest-resistant corn variety OKd

By Christine A. Gaylican

A NEW GENETICALLY MODIFIED corn variety resistant to common agricultural pests, thus requiring less herbicides, has recently been approved for commercial production in the country.

The Department of Agriculture recently approved the production of corn seeds developed by agricultural products maker Monsanto Co. which carry BT (bacillus thuriengensis) genes.

The genetic modifications on these seeds make them resistant to pests like the Asiatic corn borer, help increase yields and reduce pesticide usage, according to DA Biotechnology Program Director Alicia G. Ilaga.

Ilaga said that the use of genetically modified (GMO) corn seeds has gained wide acceptance in the country, having been cultivated in and harvested from 55,000 hectares last year. Farmers' income have risen by 50 percent, she said.

From only 20,000 ha cultivated in 2003, areas planted with the biotech corn seeds have expanded sharply. As of December 2004, some 54,668 hectares have already been planted with biotech seeds, the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA) reported.

ISAAA global coordinator and director for Southeast Asia Randy Hautea said in a press briefing that farland cultivated with GMO corn could double this year as another seed producer Syngenta Inc. joins Monsanto Philippines and Pioneer Hi-Breed Inc. in selling biotech corn seeds.

General Santos City-based farmer Edwin Paraluman said in another interview, that during last year's harvest, his income rose to P41,000 after using the biotech corn seeds from the P15,000 he used to earn.

Filinvest launches SME business park

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

REAL-ESTATE DEVELOPER FILinvest Land Inc. (FLI) is spending at least P300 million for the initial phase of its "Asenso Village" business park, devoted to spurring the growth and development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), FLI president Joseph Yap said during its launching last Friday.

Asenso's launch comes on the back of FLI's expected net earnings growth of 10 percent in the third quarter. FLI also sees revenues growing by 5 to 10 percent from July to September. For this year, FLI expects to grow its earnings by 10 to 15 percent, buoyed by demand for housing from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

Asenso Village is expected to address the needs of "widely dispersed" cottage industries all over the country by meeting the requirements of new and existing entrepreneurs for an affordable and fully functional business park community.

For this project, FLI plans to tap OFWs, entrepreneurs with small starting capital, local government units' livelihood programs, subcontractors of large manufacturing companies, retired or retiring Filipino employees, local inventors, existing local MSMEs gearing for expansion, and foreign businesses involved in information and communications technology (ICT).

FLI vice-chair Andrew Gotianun Jr. said the MSME Business Park was conceptualized in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's 10-point economic agenda to create more jobs, expand local enterprise and enhance the development of small businesses.

The development of MSME business parks is included in the 2005 Investment Priorities Plan of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), which supports the government's objective of developing and supporting two million entrepreneurs until 2010.

Recent data showed that MSMEs comprise 99.6 percent of more than 800,000 registered enterprises in the country, contributing 32 percent to total gross domestic product and accounting for 70 percent of employment.

MSMEs accounted for 60 percent of total exports and contributed $84.2 billion to local economic output last year, according to a study done by the American Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines early this year.

"We initiated Asenso Village to help entrepreneurs start or expand their businesses by providing them with a dedicated industrial-residential cluster that has access to various infrastructures, sustained technical and government institutional support, and other services and incentives needed for their successful operations," said Gotianun.

FLI has identified Asenso Village sites from its land bank across the country, particularly in Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Negros Occidental, Batangas, General Santos and Bulacan.

Only two "prototypes," however, will commence construction this year pending approval of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB).

These include a 15-hectare property in Barangay Bubuyan in Calamba, Laguna and a 20-hectare site in Barangay Pasong Kawayan II in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Both projects aim to sell a combined 956 lots. Average lot sizes for Calamba are 252 square meters and 267 sq.m. for General Trias. Investment cost for a typical entrepreneur's lot may range from P600,000 to P1 million.

Each Asenso Village will have basic utilities, a training school cum clubhouse, forwarding services companies, a commercial area, recreation and sports facilities, environmental management facilities, banks, canteen and convenience stores.

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BDO Rewards Program: A loyalty program like no other

BANKING INDEED HAS NEVER BEEN this rewarding with Banco De Oro (BDO) Rewards Program.

While other banks are rewarding clients only for a specific product or service, Banco De Oro is continuously finding ways and means of rewarding all its bank clients.

BDO Rewards Program was conceptualized and launched on March, 2005. The program aims to provide the best Bank Loyalty Program in the Philippines with its superior and flexible program features: the value given back to the members is the most generous in the industry; the program allows members to accumulate points fast and easy through the different bank products and services and because of the relationship with SM Department Stores, SM Supermarkets and the other SM affiliates, the basket of rewards is literally limitless and the minimum threshold to attain a reward is the lowest in the industry and most important of all, the redemption process is almost immediate and seamless.

BDO Rewards Program offers more value to its clients. No other bank offers its loyal patrons as many opportunities to be gratified — instant freebies, exclusive privileges and discounts at top merchant partner establishments.

The BDO Rewards points also have a double feature: each reward point is a raffle entry that entitles the members to win instantly twelve months free shopping spree at any SM Supermarket, Department Store and SM affiliates.

Countless freebies and privileges are up for grabs immediately for those who take advantage of the program. The BDO Rewards Card also serves as a privilege card to a wide array of discounts at top establishments in food, fashion, beauty, leisure and gasoline stations. A member who signs up with the BDO Rewards Program automatically receives a host of freebie coupons at selected SM establishments.

Accumulate more points faster. No other bank program in the Philippines offers a mechanism of earning points faster. Simply open a savings or checking account with Banco de Oro and you can apply to be a member of the BDO Rewards Program. To start earning the BDO rewards points, you just have to maintain a minimum of P50,000 in your savings or current account, place a minimum P500,000 of your funds with BDO Investment products or get a home, car or personal loan at Banco de Oro. The more transactions you make, the more points you get.

Moreover, members also receive points while shopping at Banco De Oro Retail Partners, which include SM Department Store, Ace Hardware, Toy Kingdom, Sports Central, SM Supermarket, Super SM Hypermarket, SM Appliance Center, Surplus Shop, Kultura, and Our Home. There are rewards waiting for you at Chateau Elysee and Petron, as well.

Unlike other programs where the rewards are limited, your BDO points may be used to redeem SM Gift Cheques at any SM Department Store or SM Supermarket Customer Service Counter. SM Gift Cheques can be used to buy any item at all SM retail establishments and SM affiliates. Members may choose the reward of their choice equivalent to the points they have earned. The entire SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, Toy Kingdom, Ace Hardware and other affiliates is your rewards catalogue. No other rewards program is more exciting and flexible.

So what are you waiting for? Simply open a peso or dollar current/savings account, invest in a trust fund, or avail of any of our consumer lending products such as home loan, car loan, or personal loan at any Banco De Oro Branch nearest you or use any of your BDO Credit cards (Standard, Gold or Shop More) to purchase anything and everything your heart desires.

To join, interested BDO individual customers with active/or current accounts must simply enroll in the BDO Rewards Program. Membership is absolutely free and is open to all BDO individual customers, seven years old and above.

To know more about BDO Rewards, please call BDO Call Center at 631-8000 or Domestic/Provincial Toll Free number 1-800-10-6318000 or visit your nearest BDO branch.

of the 23rd Southeast

UNILAB GIVES P30M TO SEA GAMES

In support of Filipino athletes' quest for gold in the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games, pharmaceutical leader United Laboratories Inc (Unilab) recently signed a P30 million sponsorship package of cash and products with the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) and the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC). The Bronze sponsorship formalizes Revicon as the official multivitamins of the SEA Games. Present during the signing ceremony were (from left) Revicon product manager Mark Alcantara, former POC chair Roberto Pagdangan, corporate VP for Unilab Consumer Health Jun Vivar and Philsoc president Jose 'Peping' Conjuangco.

OFW welfare program inked

THE OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADministration (OWWA) and the Meralco Foundation Inc (MFI), agreed to help develop the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) and their families in gaining technical and business skills with the goal of being able to set-up small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and thus generate income from their own business for themselves and/or help create more job opportunities.

As stipulated in the memorandum agreement signed recently between OWWA administrator, Director Mariano D. Roque and MFI president, Col. Alex T. Escaño, the OWWA is implementing various programs, services and benefits in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. One such program will be known as OWWA-MFI OFW Entrepreneurship Program (OMOEP).

For its part, MFI, together with its partners, are offering training courses in the fields of automotive, refrigeration and air conditioning, electronics, electrical, mechanical, instrumentation, information technologies, professional development, agriculture and agro-aquatic technologies, which aim primarily to develop technical skills needed for higher productivity among semi-skilled, skilled, supervisory personnel and entrepreneurs.

Whereas, OWWA and MFI agreed to forge a partnership beneficial to both parties and will translate to a more competent labor force and building of SMEs as a step towards the socio-economic development of OFW's families and of the country, and thus help realize the vision to make the Philippines an industrialized and enterprising nation.

As a learning institution, MFI will provide trainers, lecturers, laboratory/shop instructors and assistants, consultants who will conduct the programs agreed upon. It will also furnish OWWA with training schedules.

Through MFI's Meralco Foundation Institute and other training partners, acceptance of OFW and/or their families as participants must have the official referral slip signed by the duly authorized OWWA representative.

MAGNOLIA, LOLO DAD'S INK MOA

Owners of Lolo Dad's Café recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Magnolia Inc as a culinary partner. To experience a casual dining experience with very fine dinning food, one can visit Lolo Dads' Café, which is located at #899 President Quirino Ave. corner Leon Guinto St., Malate, Manila. Shown in photo (from left, seated): Ariel Manuel, Lolo Dad's chef de cuisine and Reginald Baylosis, Magnolia's AVP-marketing head; (standing, from left): Mia Manuel, VP-controller of Lolo Dad's, Albert Contreras, GMA territory sales manager and Arlene Arceo, product manager for Magnolia Food Service-marketing.

TRENDWAY RECEIVES AWARD

Trendway Builders Inc/Hans Flooring was awarded the country's 'Most Outstanding Distributor of Imported Laminated Flooring' in the recently concluded 1st Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards Night. The company, located at Proj.8, Q.C., can also be found in MC Home Depot - Ortigas and Fort Bonifacio. Hans Flooring/Trendway Builders is now expanding it's business as it opens new branches in Alabang and in Cebu City, reaching out to clients in the Visayas and Mindanao areas. For further details or for any queries regarding its new branches and/or products, call 426-4239/34 or log on to www.trendwaybuilders.com. Receiving the award is Edmund Lee (2nd from left) TBI's GM together with Dr. Felix M. Lao, chair of the awards committee, Fanny Serano, and Donald Lim, president of the Philippine Marketing Association.

Bits Clips

Ahmopi confab

THE ASSOCIATION OF Health Maintenance Organizations of the Philippines Inc (Ahmopi) will hold its 15th annual convention on Nov. 8, at the New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati City. This year's annual convention has for its theme "Synergy for Progress" and will have the Hon. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan as Keynote Speaker. Other speakers include Arturo C. Lundan, M.D. of Capitol Medical Center; Jaime Z. Galvez Tan, M.D. of the National Institute of Health, UP Manila; Dennis G. Damaso, M.D. of Makati Medical Center; lawyer Rod H. Nepomuceno of MTV Phils; Dr. Eduardo L. Roberto of Market Research Solutions, Inc; and Alfonso T. Lagaya, M.D. of Living Life Well. Interested parties may call the Ahmopi at 811-1844.

Panasonic seminars

PANASONIC MANUFACTURING PHILS CORP (PMPC), maker and distributor of Panasonic brand home appliances, in coordination with the Panasonic Regional Training Center-Singapore, will hold seminars on the following: Improving Operational Profitability Through Theory of Constraints (TOC) on Nov. 22 to 23; and Understanding Six Sigma on Nov. 24 to 25. Both seminars will be held at the HDC Building, PMPC, Taytay, Rizal. The event is sponsored by the Foundation for Asian Management Development (FAMD), a Japan based organization tasked with assisting other Asian countries in their management development efforts. Jay Chiew, a consulting partner of Break Thru Six Sigma Sdn. Bhd. (Singapore) will facilitate both programs. The programs are open to PMPC suppliers, as well as other companies seeking to improve their manufacturing competitiveness. For inquiries, contact Angelo Tamayo at 284-2293 or 635-2260 local 2821/2822 or e-mail at angelo.tamayo@ph.panasonic.com.

Tanduay hails Django

TANDUAY, THE NO. 1 RHUM, CONGRATULATES Francisco 'Django' Bustamante for being No. 1 in the finals of the National RP 9-Ball Open held at the Robinsons Galleria Trade Hall Oct. 23. Tanduay's advertising manager Larry Li, together with co-organizers Puyat Sports and Solar Sports handed over to Django his well-earned prize trophy as the 2005 National 9-Ball Open champion. Billiards, as a national game, is one of the sports events that Tanduay supports wholeheartedly. Tanduay believes that through billiards, the country can produce more world-class champions that even ordinary Filipinos can aspire for and excel in.

STERLING AND KIDS ZONE AT SM MALLS

Now kids have something excited to look forward to. Sterling Paper is bringing the Kids Zone to SM malls so children can learn great stuff while having fun. They can play in the Little Tikes playground complete with slides, seesaws, carts, miniature houses and cabins. And they can also enjoy a colorful bubble show, storytelling, or learn art with the workshops to be conducted by Sterling artists. Education has never been this fun. Watch out for the Kids Zone at an SM mall near you.

GMA INDUCTS 'OPERATION DIABETES' OFFICERS

With no less than the Philippine President presiding over the oath-taking of officers behind Operation Diabetes last Sept. 21 in Malacañang Palace, the nationwide diabetes control and prevention program's efforts to curb the disease in the country are expected to gain even more momentum. Dr. Gula Abad (4th from right) led the officers as chair of Operations Diabetes Support Association Inc (Odsa), the non-profit organization behind Operation Diabetes. Diabetics who wish to know more about the disease or receive free informational materials can register at the National Diabetes Registry, call 802-4807 or visit www.operationdiabetes.com. Also in photo are (from left): Dr. Delia Becina, Dr. Eloisa Aquino, Patrick Roquel, Dr. Salee Caraan-Mendoza, July Mae Tumabini, Dr. Ben Garcia, GMA, Dr. Elpidio Rosario, Lito Abelarde, Twinkle De Jesus, Dr. Gula Abad, Roger Jocson, Paul Reed and Eddie Nuque.

ProductFILES

Bayer's latest in diabetic care

Ascensia ENTRUST

ASCENSIA ELITE AND ENTRUST glucometer offers state-of-the-art bio-sensor technology from Bayer, the leader in diabetic care research and management for over 60 years and is exclusively distributed by Fernando Medical Enterprises. It is now readily available at Mercury Drugstores, nationwide, Ascensia glucometers come in two convenient types: the no fuss, no mess, no buttons to push Elite glucometer which automatically turns on when the test strip is inserted, uses capillary gap technology which requires on 2uL of blood so there's absolutely no need to squeeze the finger just to get a drop of blood. Entrust glucometer has a straight-forward set up and finger-friendly coded test strip that firs easily into the meter and has a large holding area for better strip handling. The LCD window displays information to guide user on how to get test results, retrieve memory of previous results (patients can easily review up to 10 tests with its meter memory). Both Ascensia Elite and Entrust are handy, lightweight, portable and have replaceable batteries.

X-DIVING CELEBRATES 20TH INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

Last Sept. 17, X-Diving Inc celebrated the 20th International Coastal Cleanup at the El Pinoy Dive Resort in Anilao, Batangas. The event kicked off with a cleanup dive led by dive instructors John Dizon and Vladimir Bravo. Around fifty volunteer scuba divers grouped into teams of six and armed with mesh bags and sacks, dove the Caban Cove and Layag-Layag in Anilao, collecting trash and debris found in these dive sites. As an incentive to the participants, the group who collected the most trash won exciting prizes. Join them next year and help clean up our oceans. Make every dive a Cleanup Dive!

Pfizer launches 'Sulit Na Gamot' campaign

MOST MEDICINES HAVE PROVEN TO SAVE lives and improve the quality of life of people everywhere. However, because of the difficult economic situation, the tendency is to focus too much on the cost of medicines rather than the cost of disease. Equally important to consider is the cost of disease. Disease results to absences from work, loss productivity and complications lead to more expenses. The cost of disease needs to be considered to realize the real value of treatment of disease. Balancing these two important issues, it is important to focus on proven effective, efficient and safe drugs so that patients and health care system in general can maximize the value of their limited resources.

It is important for everyone to know that well researched medicines with proven effectiveness and safety in fact help to reduce costly hospitalizations, loss of productivity and the disruptions in our daily lives. When faced with life-threatening conditions, many of us would opt to be given the best cure possible. Life is too precious and that is the reason why the best medicines are always what we would prefer for ourselves and our loved ones. It is always best to consult your doctor and not to rely on others, or one's self, who are not the authority on the treatment and management of disease.

In a recent medical symposium, Pfizer shared the long and arduous process to develop medicines. From discovery where as many as 7 million compounds are screened to exploratory development and full development where only 1-2 products get approval, taking 10-15 years and US$800 million to develop a single medicine. It is because of the research of companies such as Pfizer that generics medicines are available today. After the patent of a product expires, generic companies are free to copy the formula of the innovator companies, without need for investment on research and development on their part.

For Pfizer, the research does not stop once the product is made available to patients. Clinical trials are conducted to ensure that the medicines are safe even with prolonged use as well as to discover how these can provide more benefits to patients. Pfizer, together with physicians, medical organizations and academic institutions, conduct Outcomes Research studies to make sure that medicines are used rationally, thus making the medicines more cost-effective for patients in the long run. It is on this platform that Pfizer has launched its "Sulit Na Gamot" campaign.

Taking medicines that safely and effectively treat high cholesterol, for example, may spare you the risk of having to undergo costly bypass surgery and/or post-stroke rehabilitation, not to mention the physical and emotional burden they present. A convenient, short-course, antibiotic treatment may be more effective to treat infections as it encourages compliance, reducing the risk of antibiotic resistance.

ProductFILES

Payless spices pancit canton

BURSTING WITH REAL 'SILING LABUYO' TASTE, the new Payless Pancit Canton Hot Chili is definitely the hottest thing that ever happened to pancit canton. This latest addition to the savory Payless Pancit Canton line was created especially for the chili lovers. It's the same delicious blend of spices and secret ingredients that makes Payless 'Ok Sarap', but this time it's really hot. And because Payless is 'Ok Sustansya', you not only get a satisfying meal, you also get 11 essential vitamins to help keep you healthy. What's more, due to its very affordable price and value-for-money quality, Payless is also 'Ok Sulit'. Get Payless Pancit Canton Hot Chili in the regular pack for a light but delicious snack or go for the Xtra Big pack for a meal that's twice as hot and doubly filling. There's definitely more reasons to enjoy instant pancit canton with this spicy new flavor from Payless, now available in supermarkets and groceries nationwide. So why pay more when you can Pay Less!

Payless
Pancit Canton
Xtra Big

Win P1M and be a star in Extra Challenge

TEXT
Rexona
Holy Heat
to 2955

EVERYDAY IS AN ADventure for every woman. Going through the rush hour, meeting deadlines, or even seeing your ex, would naturally make your body heat up prompting you to scream "Holy Heat!". Now, the newly launched Rexona ActivReserve text promo is definitely making one's body heat rise even more. All you have to do is buy any Rexona ActivReserve product from the nearest store and look for the Holy Heat promo sticker found on the product pack. Each promo sticker contains a sticker code. Using your cellphone, Type in REXONA HOLY HEAT<sticker code> and send to 2955. Example, text REXONA HOLY HEAT ABCD1234. You will receive a confirmation message for every successful promo code you text. Your text raffle entry will give you a chance to win P1M and a once-in-a-lifetime appearance in Extra Challenge. So, if you gals love to say "Holy Heat!", why not text it to 2955. Watch out for the Rexona ActivReserve TV commercial and see promo posters for more details on how to join.

UNIONBANK GETS 6TH SSS HOUSING LOANS AWARDS

For the fourth consecutive year, UnionBank was honored by the Social Security System (SSS) in the Balikat ng Bayan Awards for 2005 as the Best Participating Financial Institution in Housing Loans. Overall, UnionBank is a six-time winner of this housing loans category, bagging the SSS Balikat ng Bayan Award in 1996 - 1997, 2002 - 2005. The pension funds' 48th anniversary with the theme, 'SSS: Serving the Filipino at Home and Around the World', was recently held at the SSS Head Office in Quezon City. Accepting the award is Eduardo I. Conde, SVP and business manager - Auto, Mortgage and Personal finance group, UnionBank; from Corazon de la Paz, President and CEO, SSS; and Thelmo Cunanan, Chair, SSC.

MS. INTERNATIONAL VISITS BLACKBEARD'S

Blackbeard's Seafood Island Restaurant recently welcomed Ms. International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman. Try Blackbeard's Seafood Island Boodle Feast for only P155+/person located at Market Market, Fort Bonifacio and Unit 28-31 Shopwise Arcade Gen. Mac Arthur corner Times Square Avenue, Araneta Center Cubao. Call 886-7692, 913-5701.

NESVITA PRO-HEART JOINS WORLD HEART DAY 2005

Filipinos from various ages came to Rajah Sulayman Park last Sept. 25 to take part in the celebration of the World Heart Day 2005. Donning their jogging pants and sneakers, participants started their day with a fun run and an aerothenics. The organizers of the World Heart Day 2005 hope that the celebration will jumpstart the advocacy for a healthy lifestyle. This year's World Heart Day, which has a theme of 'Healthy Weight, Healthy Shape', was organized by a collaboration of agencies; namely, the Philippine Heart Association, City of Manila, World Heart Federation, Heart Foundation of the Philippines, Department of Health, Mag-Healthy Lifestyle Coalition, Foundation for Lay Education of Health Diseases, Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity, and World Hearth Organization. The event also gathered various companies, professionals and schools that are advocating healthy living. Nesvita Pro-Heart, a PHA supporter, participated in the Heart Fair to help create awareness for the threat of heart-related diseases and to encourage people to imbibe healthy habits like engaging in regular exercise and having a balanced diet. Complementing a healthy diet and regular exercise, Nesvita Pro-Heart is a low-fat, delicious-tasting milk that combines the goodness of milk and Acticol, a clinically-proven, cholesterol-reducing agent that comes from plant sterols.

JIMENEZBASIC

JIMENEZBASIC ADVERTISING BAGS 3 AWARDS FROM MCEA

JimenezBasic Advertising was a dominant presence during the first awards night of the Marketing Communications Effectiveness Awards going home with one gold and two silver MCEA's. The agency brought home the Gold MCEA for 'Most Established Service Brand Campaign' for its Cebu Pacific 'Punctuality' effort. The agency also won two silvers for 'Most Effective New Product Introduction' for its Chowking merienda campaigns and its Alaxan FR capsule launch campaigns. The MCEA is a marketing award initiated by the University of Asia and the Pacific that honors successful advertising and marketing communications campaigns that produced impressive marketing results.

PHILIPPINE MARKETING EXCELLENCE

MOST OUTSTANDING CREDIT CARD FOR WOMEN

AIG's Dolce Vita, the credit card tailor-made for the changing needs of working women , recently received the '2004 Most Outstanding Credit Card for Women' citation from the Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards (PMEA). Photo shows (from left) Melanie Marquez, celebrity guest; Myla C. Gonzalez, AIGCCCPI vice president for marketing and sales; Annie O. Umali, AIGCCCPI general manager; Roberto Pagdanganan, Former secretary of the Department of Tourism/Agrarian Reform; Felix M. Lao Jr., Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards Institute Inc chair of the awards committee during the awarding ceremony.

CALL CENTER/BPO ROADSHOW AND JOB CARAVAN

TeleDevelopment Services (TDS), a leading consulting and training firm that specializes in helping companies maximize opportunities in the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and contact center industry, recently held the second leg of one of the most comprehensive jobs fair event at the Lipa City Youth and Cultural Center. Dubbed the 'Call Center/BPO Roadshow and Job Caravan', the 7-leg event gives people living in the area an opportunity to land high-paying jobs in some of the country's major international call center and BPO companies. Photo shows Hon. Lydio A. Lopez Jr. (3rd from left), Lipa City Vice Mayor, together with Bobby Estebanlar (2nd from left), director for business development of TeleDevelopment Services, leading the ribbon-cutting ceremonies that formally opens the Call Center/BPO job fair in Lipa City, Batangas. They are assisted by Lorna Africa (left most), assistant administrator, Lipa City and lawyer Aquilino 'Koko' Pimentel III (right most), president of Rotary Club of Manila Bay.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *National Food Authority, Region 6*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Security agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Provision of Security Services, Cy-2006
Location : Region VI
Brief Description : Provision of Security Services, Cy-2006, at NFA Regional/Provincial Offices and NFA-Owned and Leased Warehouses
Approved Budget for the Contract : P11,653,200.00
Contract Duration : January 1 – December 31, 2006
Delivery Period : January 1 – December 31, 2006

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 3 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Address	Date	Time
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Conference Room, 2/F National Food Authority, Jaro, Iloilo City	Oct. 25, 2005 – Nov. 24, 2005	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
2. Pre-Bid Conference	Conference Room, 2/F National Food Authority, Jaro, Iloilo City	Nov. 25, 2005	9:00 a.m.
3. Deadline for Submission & Receipt of Eligibility Requirements & Bid Documents	Conference Room, 2/F National Food Authority, Jaro, Iloilo City	Dec. 8, 2005	9:00 a.m.
4. Opening of Bids	Conference Room, 2/F National Food Authority, Jaro, Iloilo City	Dec. 8, 2005	9:30 a.m.
5. Bid Evaluation		Dec. 9-14, 2005	
6. Post-Qualification		Dec. 15-20, 2005	
7. Notice of Award		Dec. 22, 2005	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) to the National Food Authority Cashier.

The National Food Authority, Region 6 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The *National Food Authority, Region 6* reserves the right to accept any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA
BAC-Chairman

(PDI - October 25 & November 1, 2005)

Makati Eye Laser Center offers CustomVue

JAIME L. DINGLASAN, M.D., OF THE MAKATI Eye Laser Center, announced that it now offers the first multifocal laser vision correction for hyperopic Presbyopia. CustomVue for Hyperopic Presbyopia is the first customized, multifocal treatment designed to address the near vision and distance vision of each eye. This advanced procedure is possible by the patented presbyopia treatment by the VISX excimer laser system, the global leader and pioneer in laser vision correction. This treatment will reduce the need for corrective lenses by improving both near and distance vision. It is minimally invasive procedure and it provides a long-term solution. CustomVue for Hyperopic Presbyopia will eliminate the need for patients to use glasses to read fine print. This will affect millions of people. "All of my qualified patients have the potential to achieve freedom from reading glasses and contact lenses. CustomVue for Hyperopic Presbyopia provides my patients with youthful self-image by increasing their ability to read fine print without glasses." Dr. Jaime L. Dinglasan said. The procedure tailors a distinct correction, based on the unique characteristics of the individual's eye. The procedure is based on custom wavefront technology, which measures visual imperfections with 25-times more precision than standard methods. VISX, Incorporated utilizes this technology to provide individualized laser vision correction. CustomVue has been used to treat nearsighted , farsighted and astigmatic individuals. Dr. Dinglasan has been performing laser vision correction since 1995. He has been an Internationla Trainor for refractive surgery Philippine representative to the International Council of the International Society of Refractive Surgery among others. Makati Eye Laser Center is located at G/F Alegria Bldg., 2229 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City. For more information about the CustomVue procedure, call 813-0343/893-1152.

A New Landmark Rises

A new building concept will soon be a sight to see on Araneta Avenue. The project, named the Sanctuarium, aims to be the best alternative to today's crowded cemeteries and expensive memorial parks.

The only facility of its kind in the country, the Sanctuarium is a 12-storey building with all the amenities comparable to that of a five-star hotel. It is the most technologically advanced and the most luxurious of its kind in the country and possibly the best in Asia.

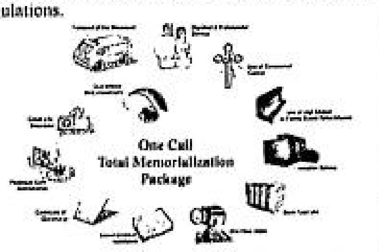
One will find comfort, solace and safety in the Sanctuarium. Its grand lobby features a sparkling fountain symbolizing everlasting life. Guests can park conveniently in any of the four underground levels with easy access to the lobby.

The Sanctuarium has 29 fully-airconditioned ecumenical vigil chapels located from the first to the third floors. These rooms can accommodate from more than a dozen to more than a hundred people depending on the family's individual requirements.

The fifth to the twelfth floors will house the perpetual ash vaults, methodically and systematically arranged. Lighting and temperature are computer-controlled and access is easy with two high-speed indoor scenic elevators and escalators.

The roof deck will be a tranquil Sky Garden and a grand universal chapel with a scenic view of the open skies.

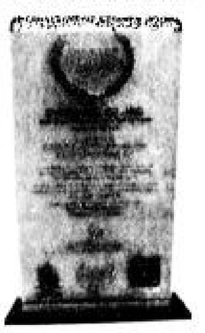
The Sanctuarium has acquired all the government licenses and local environment permits needed. They have also conducted a public hearing before the groundbreaking and the pre-selling started assuring the public that it has complied with various laws and regulations.



Sanctuarium is the Most Outstanding Columbarium Complex

The Sanctuarium has just been awarded the Philippine Marketing Excellence Award for the Most Outstanding Columbarium Complex last October 4, 2005 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel. The award was given by the Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards Institute, the Asian Institute of Marketing and Entrepreneurship and the Sales and Marketing Magazine.

Recognition of this monumental project has been consistent. Earlier, they were awarded the Family and Consumer's Choice Award. It houses both a Christian Chapel and a Buddhist Temple. It has luxurious vigil chapels with comfortable family rooms, french cafés, flower boutiques and a breathtaking Sky Garden. Fully secured with a 4-level underground parking facility, the Sanctuarium also offers the most comprehensive memorial package which makes it the best not only in terms of facilities but also the best in service.



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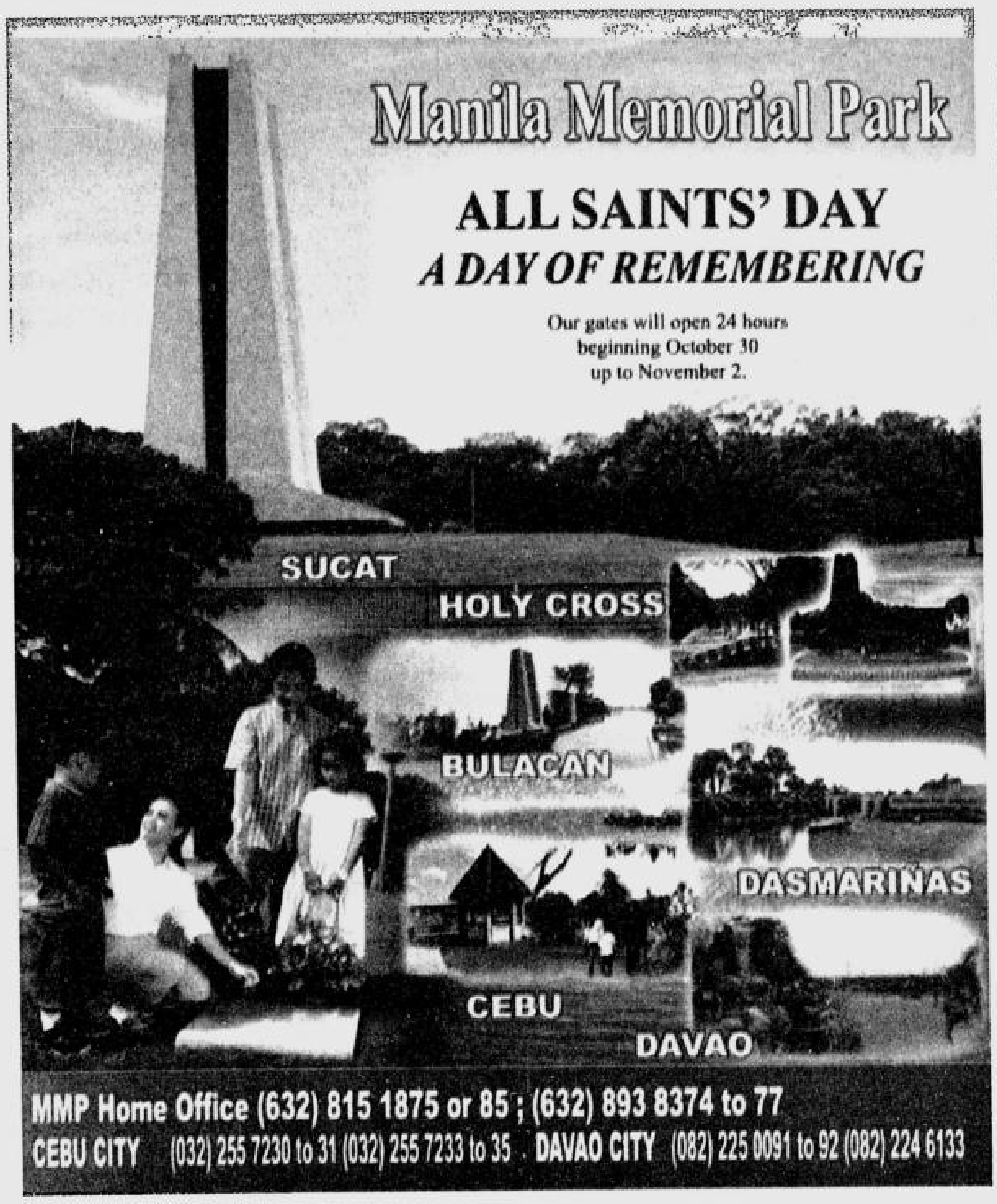

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I landed on shore
And found heaven,
Breathed the air
And found my celestial soul,
Felt a hand
And touched God,
Woke up in His Glory...
Home at last!

We, the family of

Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo

children: **Tonito**, **Rocky** and **Carmela**, mother, **Remedios E. Rodrigo**, siblings, **Ditas**, **King**, **Pempe**, **Milo** and **Boogie** cordially invite the relatives and friends of Bing to join us in remembrance of her on the first anniversary to eternal life on November 4, 2005.

Holy masses will be held on November 4, 2005 at the following churches:

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Hillsborough, Alabang – 6:00 a.m.
St. Jerome Emiliani, Ayala Alabang – 6:00 a.m.
Parish of St. James the Great, Ayala Alabang – 6:20 a.m.
Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills – 7:15 a.m.
Sanctuario de San Antonio – 7:30 a.m.
Christ the King, New Manila – 6:00 a.m.
Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral Parish, Cubao – 7:00 a.m.
St. John the Baptist Parish, San Juan – 6:30 a.m.
Mt. Carmel Shrine, New Manila – 7:00 a.m.
La Naval de Manila, Sto. Domingo Church – 6:30 a.m.

We thank all the relatives and friends who shared their lives with Bing, and allowed her to share her life with them. We thank all those who left a long and meaningful trail of happy memories in the life of Bing.

We ask our friends and relatives to continue to pray for Bing, as we know Bing continues to pray for each of them.

In Loving Memory
on the 2nd Death Anniversary of

MARIA DE LEON DIMAYA

who joined her Creator on November 1, 2003.

Her family requests relatives, friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul and to remember her always in their prayers.

Holy Masses will be offered in her memory at the following churches:

Carmelite Monastery Laoag City	October 31, 6:30 AM November 1, 6:30 AM
St. Joseph Church Laoag City	November 1, 7:30 AM
St. William's Cathedral Laoag City	November 1, 6:00 AM
Lourdes Church Quezon City	October 31, 6:30 AM November 1, 6:30 AM
Santisimo Rosario Parish Sampaloc, Manila	Oct. 31, 7:00 PM
Immaculate Conception Parish 7211 West Talcott Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60621	October 31, 9:00 AM November 2, 6:30 AM November 3, 6:30 AM November 4, 6:30 AM
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church Scott Road, Burbank, California	November 1, 8:30 AM
St. Finnbar Church Olive Ave., Burbank, California	November 1, 6:30 AM
Guardian Angel Cathedral Las Vegas, Nevada	November 1, 8:45 AM
Sto. Domingo Church Quezon City	Novemer 1, 6:30 AM

In Loving Memory
of our beloved

Satramdas V. Sadhwani

January 1, 1912 - November 1, 2002

On the occasion of our beloved Dada's third death anniversary, we would like to request all those whose lives he has touched to take a moment to pray for the eternal repose of his soul and to remember fond and cherished memories of him.

Kishni S. Sadhwani and Family

Our Dearly Beloved

FELOMINO C. TRABALLO

June 19, 1919 - October 28, 2005
Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 86.

His beloved children and in-laws, Mario & Nita, Rolly & Nena, Manny & Delia, Henry & Nita; grandchildren, Norie & Joel, Tony & Lenie, Al & Gelly, Mary Ann, Ronnie & Jouela, Randy, Eddie & Dottie, Ronn, Aileen, May & Raymond, Beng, Joan, Justin, Cristina, Sweet & Hiram, Mark & Bel, and Karen; great grandchildren and relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel C, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 5, 2005 at San Juan Cemetery after the 1:00 pm Mass at Funeraria Paz.

In Loving Memory

Josefina Castro Valera

(1920 – 2005)

of Basco, Batanes and Quezon City

formerly, Supervisor, Civil Service Commission
Assistant Director, Region II, Dept. of Labor and Employment

She is survived by her children: Raquel, Olivia, Renato, Enrico, Angelo, children-in-law: Franklin, Elvira, Analo, Beng and grandchildren, siblings: Daniel, Arnulfo, Aurea, Victoria, Miguel and Crescencia and their families.

Her remains lie in state at The Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, West Triangle Hon Quezon City. Interment will be on Saturday, 5 November 2005, at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

The pious reader is requested to offer a prayer for the eternal repose of her soul

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

ANGELINA OCAMPO ROBLES

on the Fifth Anniversary
of her passing to Eternal Life on November 1, 2000.

Her husband **Poch**, sister **Pacifica Muscat**, brother **Eliseo** and sister-in-law **Mely** and other relatives request friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the repose of her soul.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered on Nov. 1 at the following churches:

Saint Francis Parish, Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong	7:00 a.m.
St. John the Baptist Parish, Pinaglabanan, San Juan	7:15 a.m.
Don Bosco Chapel, Batulao, Batangas	6:00 a.m.
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City	12:00 noon
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills San Juan	6:00 p.m.
Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows, Quezon City	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Tagaytay City	6:00 p.m.
Sancta Maria Stella Orientes Oratory, St. Escriva St., Pasig City (Nov. 2, 2005)	12:15 p.m.

"...absent
from
the body
to be
present
with the
Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"
(2 Timothy 4)

Roberto Cecilio Bassig

who peacefully joined his Creator and his wife Leticia on the 27th of October 2005 at the age of 78.

His bereaved partner **Josefa**; children **Elizabeth, Daniel, Raymond** and **Roberto**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Rosario Sports Complex, Pasig City.

Interment will be on November 3, 2005, Thursday, 2:00 p.m. at Evergreen Memorial Garden, Pasig City.

†

Maj. Pablito R. Rodriguez (Ret.)

passed away in the grace of our Lord on October 30, 2005 at the age of 68.

His bereaved wife **Lourdes**; daughter **Gina**; son-in-law **Dr. Norman**; grandchildren **Arion** and **Sofia**; siblings **Dr. Virginia Montenegro, Ms. Evelina Rodriguez** and **Engr. Melecio Rodriguez** request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state in Mapayapa II Village, Clubhouse Chapel, Capitol Hills, Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be offered at 7:00 a.m. Friday, Nov.04, 2005. Cremation follows at 9:00 am at Paz Crematory.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
— John 3:16

"Safely Home..."

Our Beloved

Atty. Restituto "Totoy" B. Roman

Transcended onto eternal life on the 30th of October 2005, at the age of 79 years old.

We, his wife **Annie**, his children **Edwin, Susan, Allan & Anj, Resty & Sugar, Carmela**, his grandchildren **Carlo, James, Sandro, Leandro, Marc, Alec, Regina, Antonio, Alyanna** and **RC** are truly grateful for the time our Lord has shared him with us.

All those too, who, in one way or another have been blessed to have shared in his full life, request the pious readers to join us in praying for the eternal rest of his soul.

His body lies in state at the "Capilla del Señor" Sanctuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Makati City.

Interment will be on Friday, the 4th of November, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Loyola Marikina.

On the occasion of the
First Death Anniversary of our beloved

ATTY. APOLO P. GAMINDE

(July 10, 1937 – November 1, 2004)

His family, spouse **Atty. Thelma Panganiban**; children, **Atty. Ma. Consolacion Cruzada, Ma. Victoria**, son-in-law **Jessie Cruzada**; grandchildren, **Jose Maria Paolo** and **Miguel Antonio**; and mother **Loreto Palanca vda. de Gaminde** request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

BUSINESS

Prime land in Global City up for sale, lease

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPment Authority is now ready to sell or lease about 16.4 hectares of prime land in Fort Bonifacio Global City.

According to BCDA, it still cannot touch an additional 61.3 ha on the same site, saying that the property is still the subject of litigation.

Narciso Abaya, BCDA president and chief executive, said there was an 8.5-ha plot available at the North Central Business District, which is on the north side of the S&R and Home Depot facilities.

"Another lot of 6.6 ha, for mixed-use purposes, is near the Philippine Public Safety College," Abaya said.

He said a third plot, the 1.2-ha E-square lot near the mini-golf course is also available, but only for lease.

Outside Fort Bonifacio, BCDA has a total of 3.6 hectares which make up a part of the golf driving range near Villamor Air Base.

Abaya explained that under the law, 35 percent of the net proceeds from the sale of BCDA's real estate would go to the Armed Forces of the Philippines modernization program.

BCDA gets 27 percent of the proceeds and the rest are divided among a number of projects such as the national shelter program.

"If the property is developed through a joint venture, the AFP modernization program and the BCDA splits the proceeds," Abaya said.

Ailyn Zosa, BCDA vice president, said the agency has other pieces of property—measuring about 104 hectares in all—that may be up for disposition but are still not ready.

"Some of these properties contain military facilities that BCDA should replace" before it could dispose of the land, Zosa said. "Some are under litigation due to questions of ownership."

These properties include the 33-ha Marines complex in Fort Bonifacio, and the 4.9-ha Camps Melchor and Atienza in Libis, Quezon City.

"There is also the 1.1-ha Fort Abad property where the Philippine Navy headquarters is located, but this has reclamation potential," Zosa said.

Under litigation is the ownership of the 35.5-ha property in the Joint United States Military Assistance Group area, which is occupied by the Southside Homeowners Association Inc., and the 25.8-ha land occupied by the Navy Officers Village Association Inc.

The associations claim that the properties were sold to them. The BCDA insisted that they were not.

The cases are pending with the Supreme Court.

AN EMPTY patch of land in Global City becomes a fetching spot to settle in.

Bayantel sets aside ₱300M for '06 capital investment

By Clarissa S. Batino

BAYAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS INC. WILL spend between P200 and P300 million next year to improve its fixed-line business and venture into limited cellular operations, its chief consultant said.

Bayantel, a unit of the Lopez-owned Benpres Holdings Corp., will use most of its earmarked capital expenditure next year to start building a wireless local loop within its service areas, according to its chief consultant Tunde Fafunwa.

Fafunwa said the company can finance the expansion using internal funds, although short-term borrowings were being considered.

A wireless local loop will give Bayantel customers access to mobile services within the company's franchise area. Fafunwa said the Benpres unit will also expand its landline business next year, particularly in Visayas and Mindanao.

"We have to roll out additional infrastructure to capture incremental growth in demand," he said.

So far, only 85 percent of the Lopez firm's fixed-line capacity had been utilized.

The first phase of the wireless venture is estimated to bring in between 10 and 30,000 subscribers, the consultant said. The expansion into wireless will start in Metro Manila where the bulk of its 300,000 subscribers are located.

Bayantel hoped that its plans to go into a form of a wireless service will allow the company to keep its cellular phone permit with the National Telecommunications Commission.

The NTC had warned Bayantel that it may confiscate the wireless license if the company would not offer a mobile phone service.

"The wireless local loop has CMTS (cellular mobile telephone service) capability and the quality will be comparable to CMTS," Fafunwa claimed.

While still under debt rehabilitation, Bayantel's access to financing is constrained, although the chief consultant said some banks were willing to start lending again by 2006 provided the terms are short and the amount limited.

"There are informal discussions with some banks," said Fafunwa. "I believe we can have access to short-term financing once we achieve 15 months of consistent payment to creditors."

The company had been paying interest on its debt since September 2004. Last June, it settled a portion of its $325-million principal obligation.

Fafunwa said the company will focus on its telco business to accelerate recovery. Bayantel had been in the red for most of its operations, prompting Benpres to look for buyers.

The chief consultant said management can turn around finances in five years. The key is to focus on core operations and divest itself of non-core ventures like its remittance business.

Bayantel registered revenues of P2.9 billion in the first half, up 9 percent against the previous year. Earnings before income tax, depreciation and amortization reached P1.3 billion in the first six months against P1.09 billion in the same period in 2004.

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

A circle helps cope with grief

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

"At the end of your tears you will find meaning."
—Agnes Prieto

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

IF EVERY DAY IS dedicated to life and living, why not a day solely for the dead? After all life is only seen as life because death is its physical end. But the loss of a loved one is hard on the living. How does one cope?

Depression

Situations of great stress can plunge one into depression. The loss of a loved one can cause the most stress. In Deepak Chopra's "Ageless Body, Timeless Mind," Harvard psychologist George Valliant said depression "often leads to premature aging, chronic illness and early death."

It is generally accepted that the root of this condition is emotional numbness, when laughter or joy is difficult.

Positive emotions are blocked by negative emotions. Bad memories have eclipsed the good. Old memories often screen new ones so when good memories or experiences occur they are filtered by old pains. Even the most beautiful experiences cannot affect positively a person in a deep depression—unless he/she is aware of the situation.

While most people with depression are under medication, the treatment does not cure the underlying pain, sadness, numbness, trauma and hopelessness. Stop the medication and the bad feelings return. This is why a new approach toward healing is needed, one that requires insight and courage.

Losses

For some people, feeling deep pain, releasing and healing may not come easy. This was the case of Agnes Prieto who lost two husbands, a mother and her own son all in the span of 20 years.

Her grief was nearly inconsolable when, five months on the family way, she lost her first husband in a plane crush.

"My first reaction was denial then numbness set in. But never did I ever wish to die," she said.

Survival was foremost in her mind as she looked at her young family. "I had to live for the sake of my children."

Losing another husband from cardiac arrest filled her with confusion and anger. All these emotions, she said, were valid and one must allow them to flow naturally.

"They need to find release through awareness."

Agnes admitted that even if relatives and friends meant well when they asked you to stop crying, it didn't assuage the hurt. Often it even aggravated the situation.

"But the greatest pain of all is the loss of a child," she said. A mother is supposed to die ahead of her child so it is as though the child is snatched straight from the mother's womb when the child dies before the mother.

What was even more unbearable for Agnes was the violent manner by which she lost her son.

Through all these traumas, this woman of great strength began to see the light at the end of her tunnel of despair. There was, after all a way to process all these life-threatening stresses—by helping others.

Healing circles

Of course, this cannot happen unless a person in grief helps himself/herself first. And this was how their support group was born. Agnes, together with two grieving friends (a widower and a widow) decided to unite and help others to heal.

The three Ateneo Center for Family Ministry classmates founded the Healing Circles only last year. They lend their shoulders to grieving people to cry on and give their listening ear to those in need. A circle was chosen as symbol of this support group to symbolize wholeness.

Through a 24-hour mobile phone number (0920-5525952) many who grieve and despair may find hope again.

Grief wheel

According to the Circle's brochure, a major upheaval in a person's life can make him/her go through five natural stages of painful feelings.

1. Denial: "This can't be happening to me!"
2. Anger: "Why me?" Mostly directed at the world and God.
3. Guilt: "What did I do wrong to deserve this?" "Could I have prevented it from happening?" A self-directed negative emotion looking for blame.
4. Surrender/moving on: "I must continue to live the best I can one day at a time." Surrendering to God and allowing Heaven to take over.
5. Acceptance: "This tragedy has happened and it cannot be undone." When total awareness has taken over in a sober, calm manner.

Here's a healing affirmation for those in grief: "I may be broken but I will be whole again."

Calming ritual

Take a cup of hot water. Drop five leaves of peppermint or a sachet of chamomile. Sip slowly in a cozy corner of the house facing a sunset. Visualize your grief being brought down by the sun and by the sea or mountains.

One inspirational text message I came across said:

Life's guidelines:
Expect nothing
Do more
Love lots
Smile often
Cry sometimes
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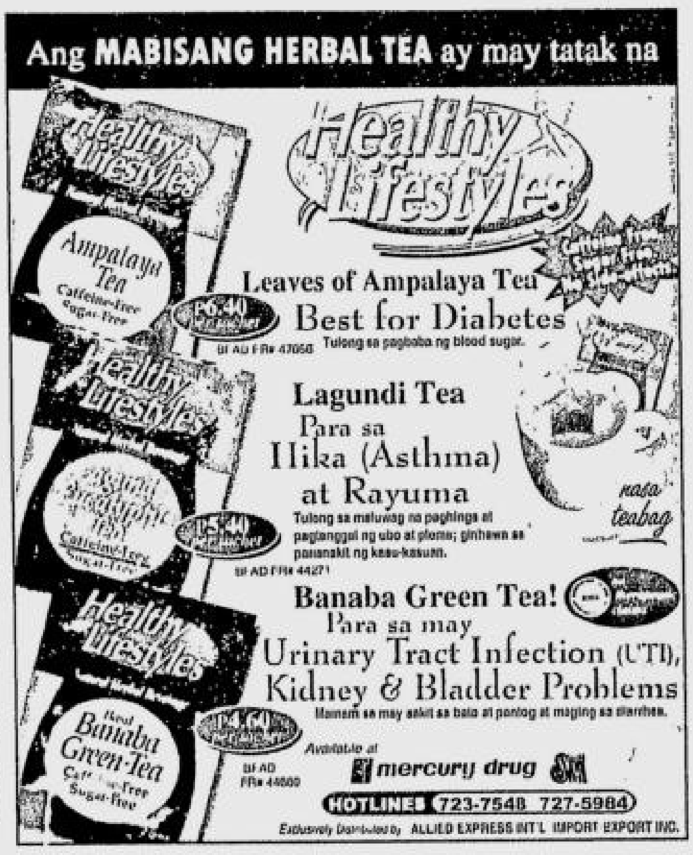
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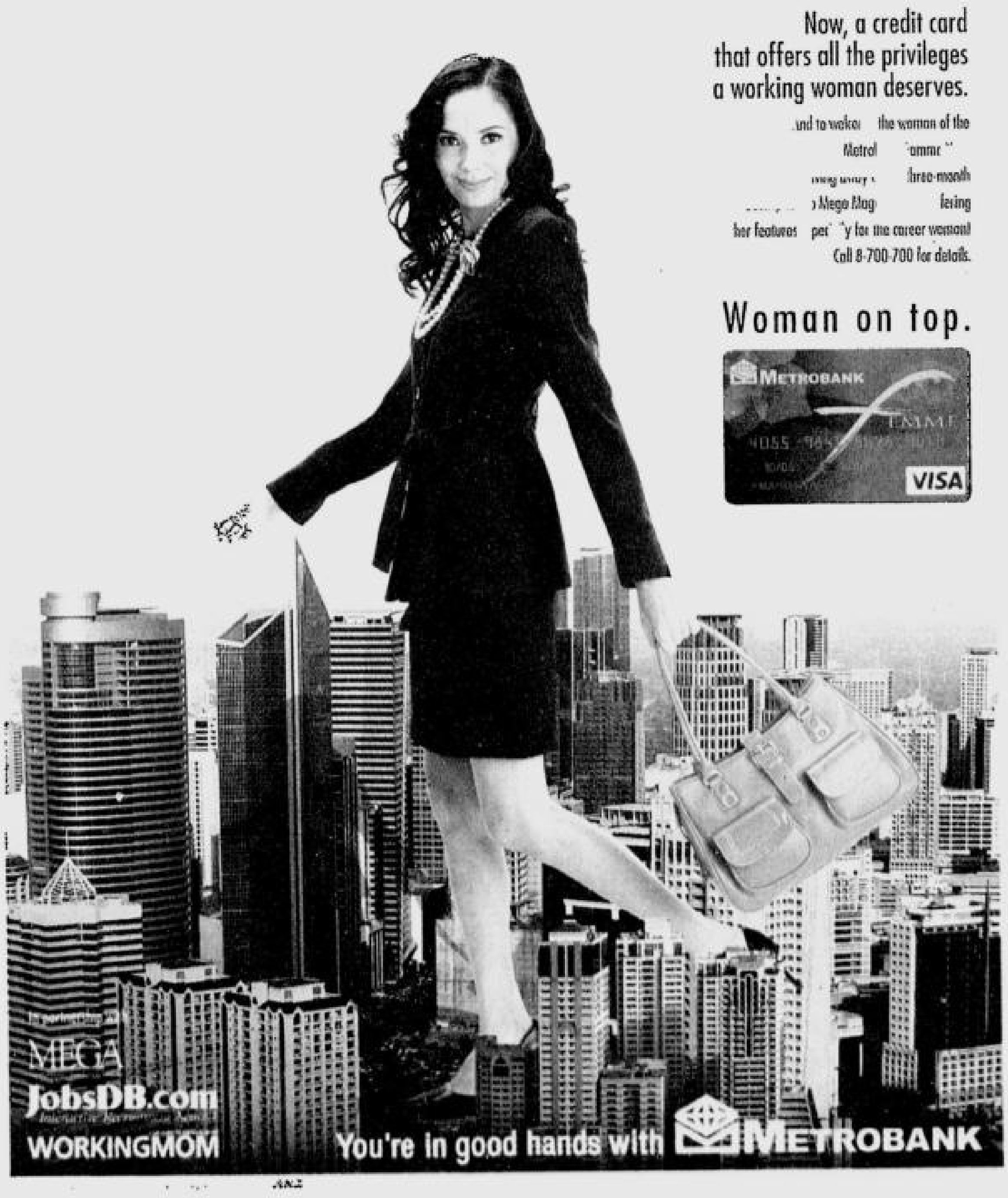
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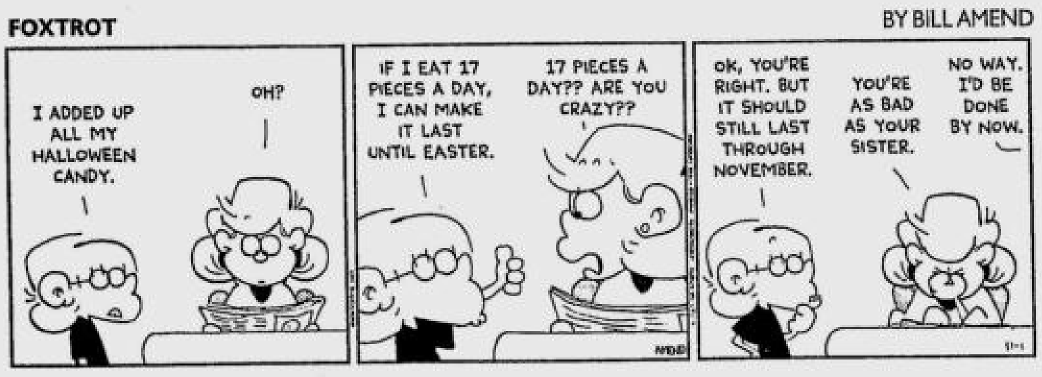
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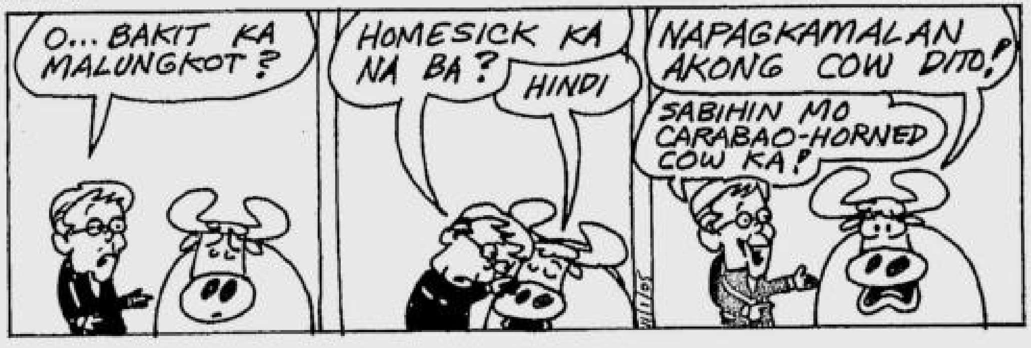
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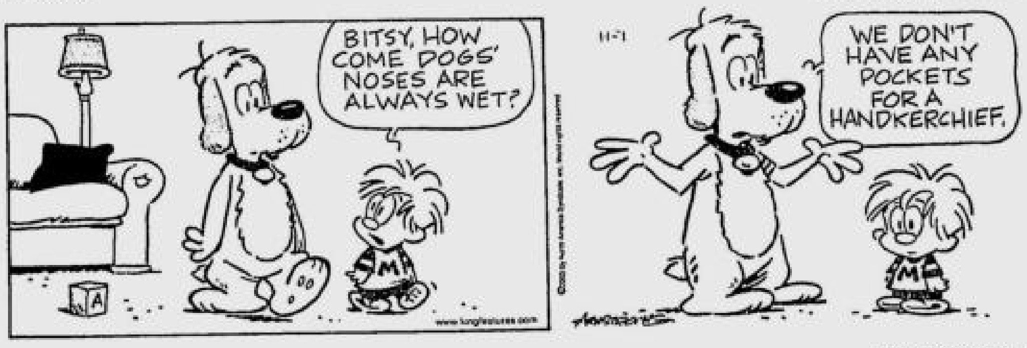
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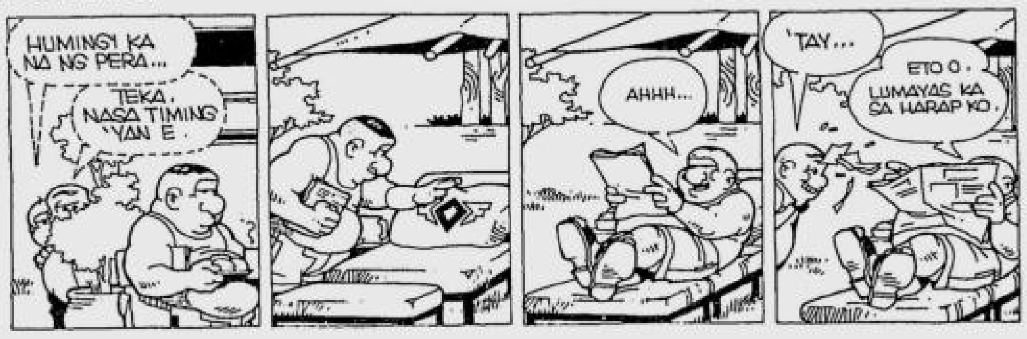
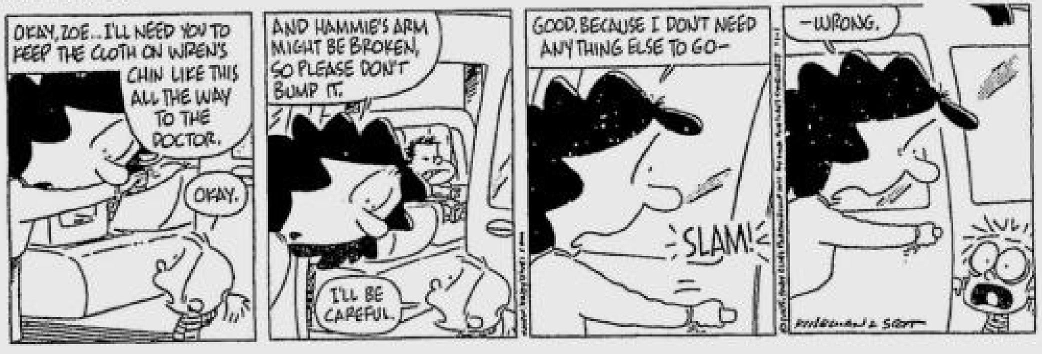
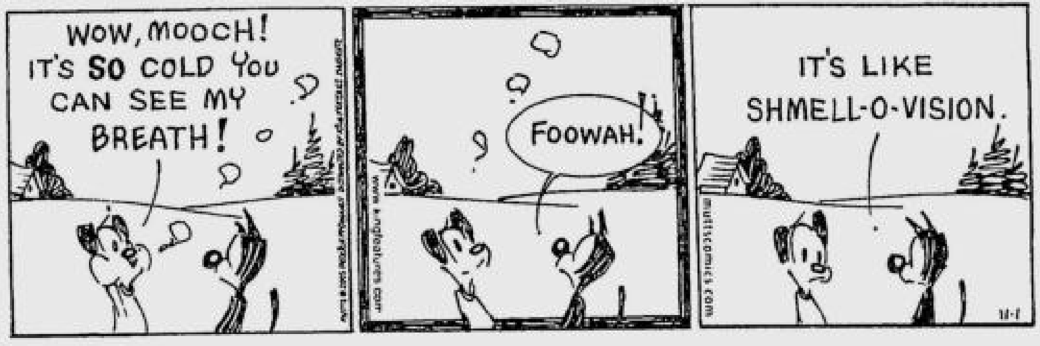
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


HUMINGI KA NA NG PERA...
TEKA. NASA TIMING 'YAN E.
AHHH...
'TAY...
ETO O. LUMAYAS KA SA HARAP KO.

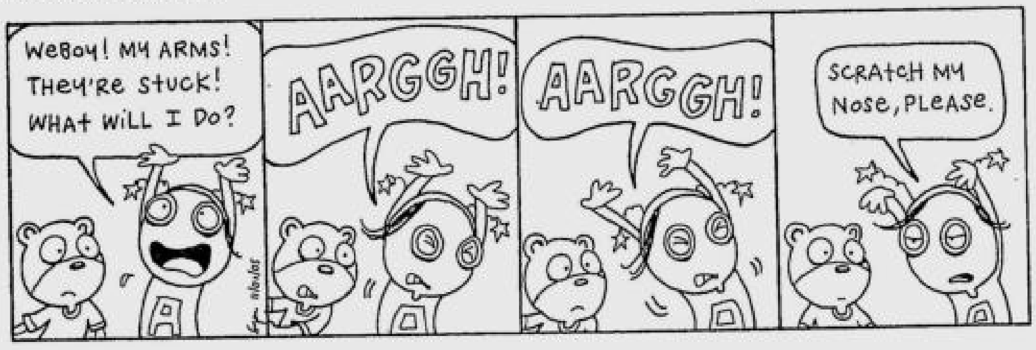
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


OKAY, ZOE... I'LL NEED YOU TO KEEP THE CLOTH ON WREN'S CHIN LIKE THIS ALL THE WAY TO THE DOCTOR.
OKAY.
AND HAMMIE'S ARM MIGHT BE BROKEN, SO PLEASE DON'T BUMP IT.
I'LL BE CAREFUL.
GOOD. BECAUSE I DON'T NEED ANYTHING ELSE TO GO—
SLAM!
—WRONG.

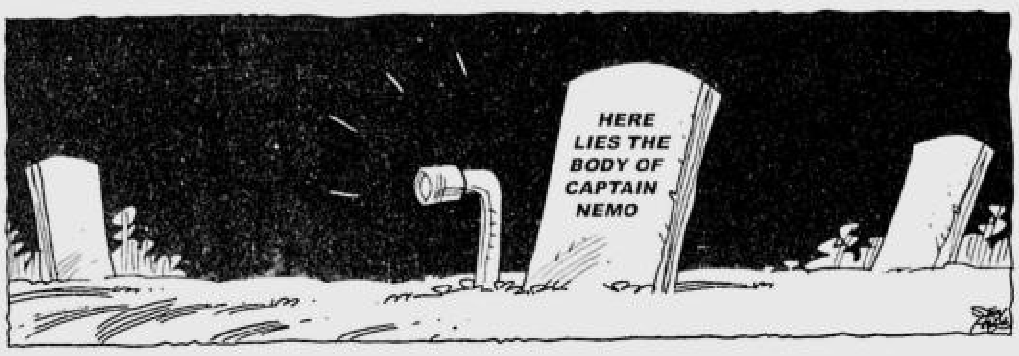
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WOW, MOOCH! IT'S SO COLD YOU CAN SEE MY BREATH!
FOOWAH!
IT'S LIKE SHMELL-O-VISION.
muttscomics.com

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WeBoy! My ARMS! They're stuck! WHAT WiLL I Do?
AARGGH!
AARGGH!
SCRATCH MY Nose, PLEASE.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HERE LIES THE BODY OF CAPTAIN NEMO

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are kindhearted and altruistic. (But you need a lot of freedom!) Because you're sensitive and easygoing, you make friends easily. You have a strong sense of justice. Your clever mind easily grasps new ideas. You also have good business savvy. This is a year of exciting new beginnings.

Birthdate of: Aishwarya Rai, Bollywood superstar; Gary Player, golfer; Lyle Lovett, musician/actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is the perfect day to think about ways to improve your approach to how you handle shared property, paying your bills and taking care of red-tape details. Think of one way to do this.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Today's New Moon offers you an opportunity to observe your closest relationships and partnerships. Remember: You must be as good for your partner as he or she is for you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Each New Moon is the perfect time to start some resolutions. This is a good day to think about how you can improve your approach to work and how you do your job.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Yours is a nurturing sign. This is the only New Moon all year that urges you to improve your parenting style and your way of dealing with young people.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Think of ways to improve your home and where you live. Remember: Kindness at home is the most important thing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Listen to your style of communicating to others—especially siblings, relatives and neighbors. Are you clear in your communications? Do you listen to others?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Many Librans are uncomfortable talking about money. You love beautiful things, but you'd rather not discuss cash. Today is the perfect time to think about how you earn your money and how to spend it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Today's New Moon is in your sign. This is the only time all year this will happen. Therefore, think about the kind of impression you create on your audience.

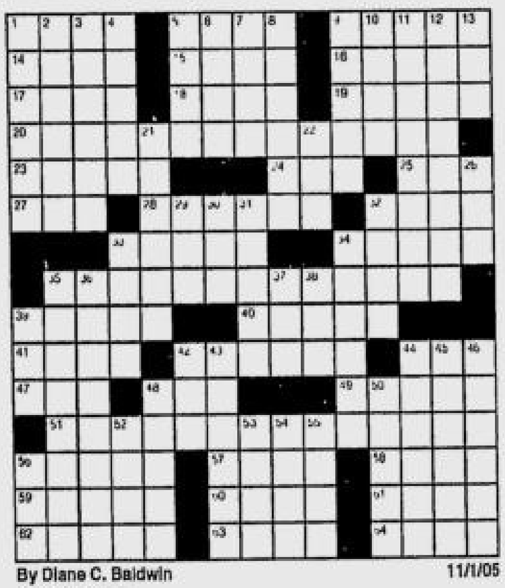
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Yours is a philosophical sign. (That's why you like travel and other cultures.) This is a good time to think about your inner world and your spiritual values. What does your image look like?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Are you happy with your friends? What kind of friend are you? If you want to have friends in your life, be friendly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is the perfect day to think about how you relate to authority figures in your life. (Your sign is rebellious by nature.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Think about what you can do to learn something new. How can you expand your experience of the world? Buy a book? Why not visit someplace different?

DAILY CROSSWORD



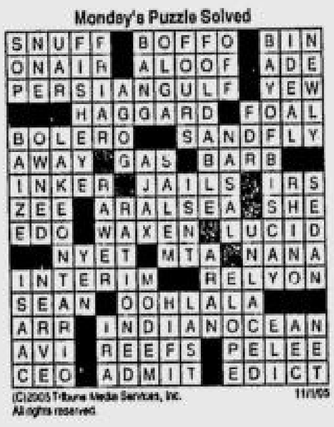
By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

11/1/05

ACROSS
1 Indication of healing
5 Gondola alternative
9 Took measured steps
14 Clare Booth __
15 First-rate
16 Make changes to legislation
17 Keiko was one
18 Twinge
19 Adds seasoning
20 Tries to make sense of
23 Former Turkish title
24 "We __ not amused"
25 Mars hue
27 Affirmative comment
28 Mia Hamm's sport
32 Diminutive
33 Biblical mount
34 Absence of stress
35 Uses intuition
39 British sailor
40 Baseball teams
41 In a fresh way
42 Push forward
44 Cries of delight
47 Good buddy
48 Foot digit
49 Ocean speck
51 Grasps it all
56 Far beyond the norm
57 Really dry
58 Madame Bovary
59 Verse cadence
60 Farm tower
61 Writer Bagnold
62 __ on (victimizes)
63 Bread end
64 Feel for

DOWN
1 Slapdash
2 Courts of justice
3 Admittance
4 Sandy coastline
5 Bugler's farewell
6 Skiff or dory
7 A.D. word
8 West Indies music
9 Kindergarten adhesive
10 Asian nanny
11 Root vegetable
12 Dig in
13 Deg. with teeth?
21 Without question
22 Mess up
26 Use indigo
29 Lennon's love
30 Raucous bird call
31 Kid of the Wild West
32 Sawbucks
33 Did in
34 Open to all
35 Crafty one
36 Egg dish, British style
37 Mont Blanc, for one
38 Cry's companion
39 Two pool lengths
42 Kind of hole or holder
43 Talk over
44 Graduates
45 Recluse
46 Not jumpy at all
48 Pre-1917 Russian rulers
50 Nearly vertical
52 Low card
53 One of HOMES
54 Stack up
55 False god
56 Ref's relative

Monday's Puzzle Solved



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			H	A	G	G	A	R	D		F	O	A	L
B	O	L	E	R	O			S	A	N	D	F	L	Y
A	W	A	Y		G	A	S		B	A	R	B		
I	N	K	E	R		J	A	I	L	S		I	R	S
Z	E	E		A	R	A	L	S	E	A		S	H	E
E	D	O		W	A	X	E	N		L	U	C	I	D
		N	Y	E	T		M	T	A		N	A	N	A
I	N	T	E	R	I	M			R	E	L	Y	O	N
S	E	A	N		O	O	H	L	A	L	A			
A	R	R		I	N	D	I	A	N	O	C	E	A	N
A	V	I		R	E	E	F	S		P	E	L	E	E
C	E	O		A	D	M	I	T		E	D	I	C	T

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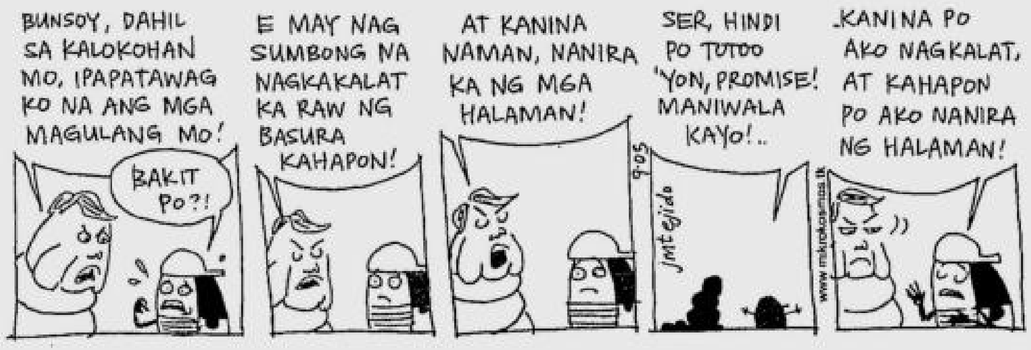
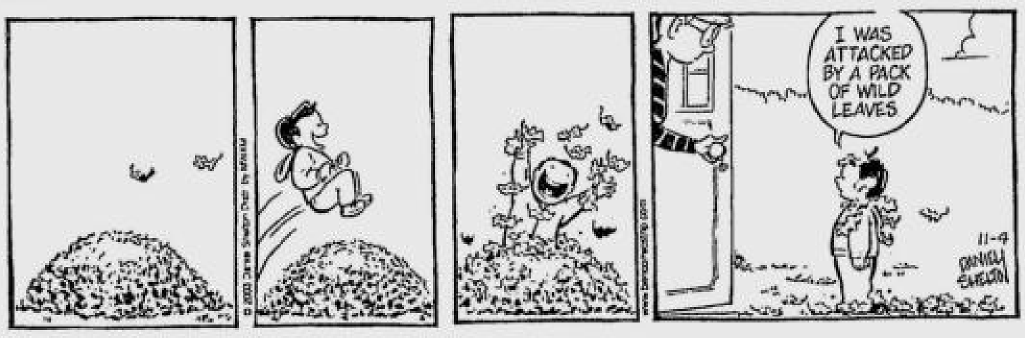
11/1/05

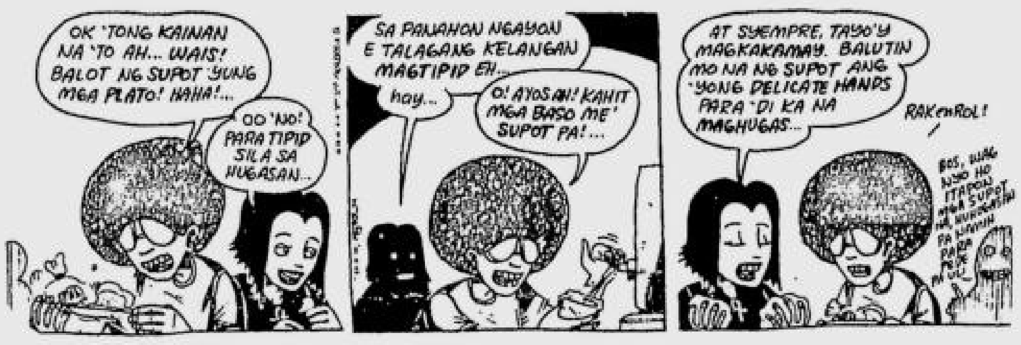
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BUNSOY, DAHIL SA KALOKOHAN MO, IPAPATAWAG KO NA ANG MGA MAGULANG MO!
BAKIT PO?!
E MAY NAG SUMBONG NA NAGKAKALAT KA RAW NG BASURA KAHAPON!
AT KANINA NAMAN, NANIRA KA NG MGA HALAMAN!
SER, HINDI PO TUTOO 'YON, PROMISE! MANIWALA KAYO!..
KANINA PO AKO NAGKALAT, AT KAHAPON PO AKO NANIRA NG HALAMAN!
www.mikrokosmos.tk

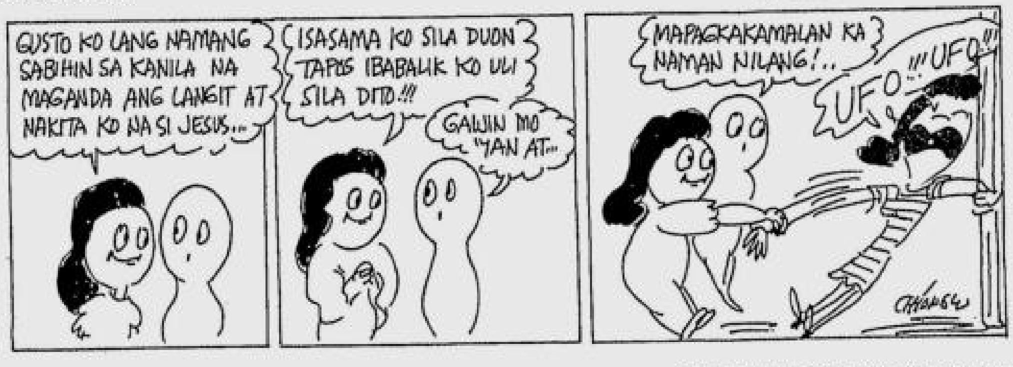
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


I WAS ATTACKED BY A PACK OF WILD LEAVES
11-4
DANIEL SHELTON

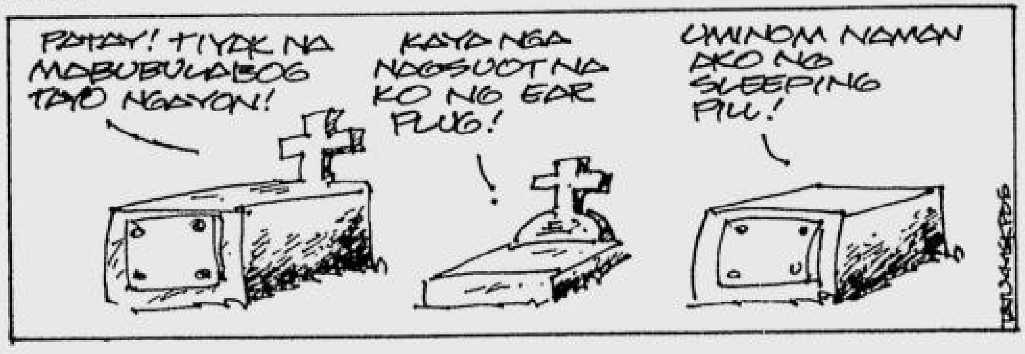
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


OK 'TONG KAINAN NA 'TO AH... WAIS! BALOT NG SUPOT 'YUNG MGA PLATO! HAHA!...
OO 'NO! PARA TIPID SILA SA HUGASAN...
SA PANAHON NGAYON E TALAGANG KELANGAN MAGTIPID EH...
hoy...
O! AYOS AH! KAHIT MGA BASO ME' SUPOT PA!...
AT SYEMPRE, TAYO'Y MAGKAKAMAY. BALUTIN MO NA NG SUPOT ANG 'YONG DELICATE HANDS PARA 'DI KA NA MAGHUGAS...
RAKenROL!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


GUSTO KO LANG NAMANG SABIHIN SA KANILA NA MAGANDA ANG LANGIT AT NAKITA KO NA SI JESUS...
ISASAMA KO SILA DUON TAPOS IBABALIK KO ULI SILA DITO!!!
GAWIN MO 'YAN AT...
MAPAGKAKAMALAN KA NAMAN NILANG!..
UFO!!! UFO!!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PATAY! TIYAK NA MABUBULABOG TAYO NGAYON!
KAYA NGA NAGSUOT NA KO NG EAR PLUG!
UMINOM NAMAN AKO NG SLEEPING PILL!

Spot a health and fitness quack

WELL AND GOOD
Tina Juan

THE FAMOUS CIRCUS promoter P. T. Barnum was right. A sucker is born every minute.

The quacks that make outrageous claims for health and fitness products know it and count on it. They know that even the most intelligent person can fall for their promises of "instant" beauty, health, weight loss or athletic prowess because what they are really selling is hope.

Everyone has an insecurity of some sort about attractiveness or health. Quackery works because quacks appeal to our vanity.

Dr. Stephen Barrett, author of "The Health Robbers" and founder of the National Council against Health Fraud, writes, "Since ancient times, people have sought at least four different magic potions: The love potion, the fountain of youth, the cure-all, and the athletic super pill. Quackery has always been willing to cater to these desires."

In the preface to Barrett's book, the late advice columnist Ann Landers wrote she received letters asking about products that were obviously from quacks. She said she used to wonder how people could be so stupid to believe such things. She eventually realized it wasn't just stupidity but "desperation and wishful thinking that wipes out all reason and common sense."

Instead of unicorn horns and magical brews, quacks now sell creams and gadgets promising to make you instantly slimmer or more attractive to the opposite sex. Barrett notes, "Even reputable products are promoted as though they are potions. Toothpastes and colognes will improve your love life. Hair preparations and skin products will make us look 'younger than our years.' Olympic athletes tell us that breakfast cereals will make us champions. And youthful models reassure us that cigarette smokers are sexy and have fun."

In the past, quacks would hawk their goods from town to town. Today's quacks have gone high-tech, advertising their products by mail, television infomercials, and the Internet.

Types of quacks

In another book, "The Vitamin Pushers," Barrett describes three kinds of quacks—the dumb, the deluded, and the dishonest.

He says the dumb quack is well meaning but ignorant, misinterpreting his/her own experiences as truth. She may be a friend trying to sell you a "magic" weight-loss product that she says works for her.

The deluded quack clings to false ideas in spite of proof to the contrary. The dishonest quack is the most dangerous because his primary goal is money. He lies repeatedly for personal gain, feeling no guilt or remorse when he harms or cheats others.

Spotting them

Quacks promise quick, dramatic, miraculous results. The more outrageous and exaggerated the claim, the more you should be suspicious.

Weight loss does not happen overnight. Otherwise, everyone would be slim. Getting taller isn't as simple as taking a pill or drinking a health shake. If it were that easy, everyone would be a potential basketball star or fashion model.

Quacks use mostly anecdotes and testimonials to support their claims. Barrett writes, "We all tend to believe what others tell us about personal experiences. But separating cause and effect from coincidence can be difficult. Never underestimate the extent to which people can be fooled by a worthless remedy. During the early 1940s, many thousands of people became convinced that 'glyoxylide' could cure cancer. Yet analysis showed it was simply distilled water. Many years before that, when arsenic was used as a 'tonic,' countless numbers of people swore by it even as it slowly poisoned them."

Buyers beware

Quacks turn their customers into salespeople. Barrett warns, "People who give such testimonies are usually motivated by a sincere wish to help their fellow humans. Rarely do they realize how hard it is to evaluate a 'health' product on the basis of personal experience. Since we tend to believe what others tell us of personal experiences, testimonials can be powerful persuaders. Despite their unreliability, they are the cornerstones of the quack's success."

In his article "Consumerism and Quackery," Dr. Len Kravitz recommends asking the following questions before buying any type of health or fitness product:

Is the product supported entirely by testimonials?

Is there any controlled, randomized scientific evidence supporting the sales claims?

Scam artists are selling creams and gadgets promising to make you instantly slimmer or more attractive

Do the experts associated with the program have the proper credentials?

Is the person selling the product believable?

Does the person selling the product seem overly self-confident or enthusiastic?

Does the promotion use any pseudomedical jargon?

Does the promotion boast a secret formula or answer?

Do the claims seem miraculous or farfetched?

Is the product appealing to your vanity?

Does the suggested use to the product seem out of keeping with the desired outcome? For example, the promise of "slimmer thighs in just three minutes a day."

Does the fine print contain any disclaimers?

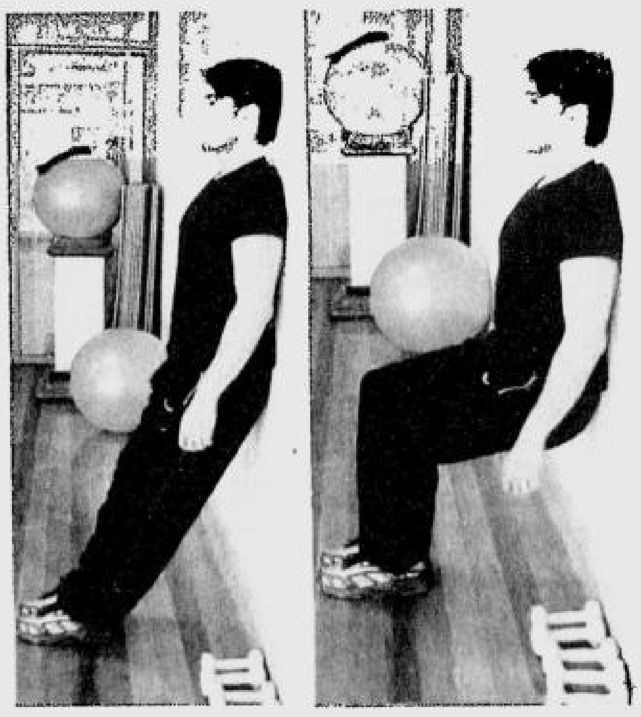
Does the offer include additional free prizes?

The Family Wellness Festival will be held Nov. 12-13 at the La Mesa Ecopark. Activities will include health lectures, jazz and neo-ethnic concerts, arts and crafts, sports, and animal shows. Proceeds will be used to rehabilitate the watershed. Call ABS-CBN Foundation at 4152272 local 4551.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Wall slide



THIS EXERCISE STRENGTHens the muscles in the front and back of the thighs, buttocks and inner thighs.

Equipment

Wall

Exercise technique

1. Stand with your head, shoulders and buttocks against a wall.
2. Walk your heels away so your feet are flat. Keep your feet together.
3. Keep your back straight against the wall, but don't lean into it; use it for balance.
4. Slide down the wall, bending your knees until they're even with your hips.
5. Slowly straighten your legs and return to starting position, keeping head and torso in contact with the wall.

Performance tips

1. To focus on the inner thighs, keep your knees pressed together.
2. Squeeze buttocks as you straighten legs and return to starting position.
3. Keep your weight evenly distributed over your feet, not your heels, throughout the exercise.

Repetitions

Move down in four counts; move up in four counts. Do 12 repetitions. Another option is to hold the position for 10 seconds. Do two to three times.

MEDICard, The Healthcare You Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

How can Breast Cancer be best prevented?

Based on the 2005 Philippine Cancer Facts and Estimates, breast cancer is the second leading cancer site for both sexs. A number of established and potential risk factors for breast cancer have been identified, to include age greater than 50, genetic predisposition, family history, personal history of malignancy, irradiation of the breast region at an early age, hormonal factors and lifestyle factors. Lifestyle modifications have not been proven to reduce the risk of developing breast cancer, but because they can lead to better health, counselling about lifestyle modifications is nevertheless an important element of primary cancer prevention. These includes consuming a low-fat diet, limiting alcohol intake, avoiding smoking, exercising and maintaining ideal body weight. Genetic screening should be considered in patients with early breast cancer (age <40) and or a strong family history of breast and ovarian cancer. High risk patients may be managed by close surveillance with mammography, chemoprevention with tamoxifen, prophylactic oophorectomy or prophylactic mastectomy · breast reconstruction. Lastly, the cornerstone of screening are breast examination by a physician or clinical breast examination (CBE), screening mammography and breast self examination (BSE).

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our medical service provider from Cebu Doctors' Hospital in Cebu City, Dr. Ma. Noemi Alsay Uy. Dr. Noemi specializes in Bl-Oncology and has been in practice for 19 years now. She earned her medical degree from Cebu Institute of Medicine and followed by her residency training for Internal Medicine in 1983. She later took her subspecialization training in Oncology from UP-PGH Medical Center Manila in 1985. Dr. Uy is a fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians, Philippine Society of Medical Oncology and the Philippine Society of Oncologists. She is the chairperson of Cebu Cancer Registry, president of the Cancer Care Network of Cebu Inc., and also head of the Hema-Onco Unit in Cebu Doctors' Hospital

MEDICard members may visit her for consultation services at Cebu Doctors' Hospital, Mondays to Fridays from 9:00 am to 2pm

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky

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Tel. No.: (02) 732-2752

AA Shoe Enterprise
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Bonifacio St., Poblacion, Balanga, Bataan
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A TOAST to Splash. President and COO Jesin Soriano, vice chair and CFO Dr. Rosalinda Hortaleza and chair and CEO Dr. Rolando Hortaleza

SOCIETY gals Ruby Tuason and Susan Grau

WATSON'S Andrew Denby and Splash International Inc.'s Ed Patron

SUPER Value Inc.'s Margaret Go and Ria Perez with SPC National Trade marketing manager Jose Rafael Buhay

SUPER PALS: Vivacious Peachy Veneracion and restaurateur Sandro Mike Rieta

PUBLICIST Louie Cruz, model Annette Coronel, Splash's Fe Marie Cabantac, Isay Alvarez, Robert Seña, model-entrepreneur Patty Betita, Splash's Jun Porte and Noel Manucom

ANET Ablan, Jean Saburit, Malou de Guzman, French attache Thierry Laubault and second counselor of the French Embassy, Patrick Launay

ROMY Carbonel, Jesin Soriano of Splash, Minnie Carbonel and Jack Concepcion of Mercury Drug

SUSAN Loyola of HBC House of Beauty Exclusives (second from left) with HSBC executives Jitender Puri, Paula Felipe and Marilen Medina-Ruiz

SPLASH Pharma National Consumer marketing manager Ernest Perez, Susan Dimacali and Dave Guerrero of BBDO

From splash to lush plus a day in the greens

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

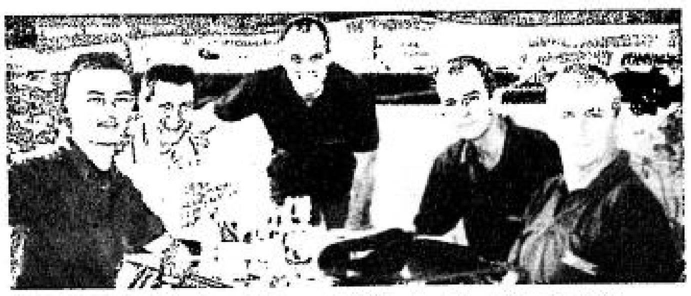
Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

10 Lush years and September birthday celebrators: Catherine Yap, Ketchup Eusebio, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Maoui David, Vicky Tensuan and Rich Herrera

STORES Specialists' Anton Tantoco Huang, Vision & Expressions top gal Susan Joven and Rustan's Malu Francisco

STORES Specialists' Mike Huang with true love, b-day gal Catherine Yap



SHANGRI-LA Hotels and Resorts Philippines' hotshots: Jarlath Lynch, Tim Stanhope, Chad Davis, Timothy Wright and Sigi Bierbaumer

MAKATI Shangri-La director of business development Jed Arricivita, Chiqui Dy, Lito German of BMW, Taryn Paynor and Dominic Chiu

WHEN THE SPLASH Group of Companies makes a splash, you can be absolutely sure it's the most huge splash to hit our local shores of wellness. That's what happened at the official launch of their newest baby in the company, the Splash Pharmaceutical Corp.

The hotshot, high-powered invitees were all excited about the birth of this "powered by nature and inspired by science" company and their fab product lines, *palanggas*.

Splash chair and CEO, the suave and brilliant Dr. **Rolando Hortaleza**, together with his life partner, the *tres charmante* vice chair and CFO Dr. **Rosalinda Hortaleza**, and the tall, dashing, good-looker Splash Pharmaceutical COO **Jesin Soriano**, led the toast to what they called "the dawn of the nutraceutical era in the Philippines."

I've been digging into the virgin coconut oil rave since its rediscovery but I've never imagined having a dessert of creamy ice cream, topped with the Theraherb Virgin Coconut Oil—which is the first flavored VCO to be introduced in the country, and probably the world. Theraherb comes in four flavors: banana, corn, jackfruit and natural. Wow! I tried them all and they were absolutely delightful. The VCO variants are now available in the market for everyone to try for a healthier life, *n'est ce pas*! (as in *di bala*?)

And who were at the launch bash? Power social and economic pillars such as **Cora Lim, Andrew Denby** of Watsons, dynamic **Tom Banguis** of AB Comm, National Power Corp. president **Cyril del Callar, Sandro Rieta**, whose temporary absence in Boracay has made his home available to many people; and *numero uno* publicist **Louie Cruz**.

Tee is served

Hey, *palanggas*, the hotshot men and women who are top corporate clients of all the Philippine properties of the Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts recently got a break from the asphalt jungle. They had a chance to chill it during the Invitational Golf Tournament held at the cool, plush greens of the scenic Sta. Elena Golf club in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

In full force and ready to rock and roll were the prominent men and women of Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts Philippines. Leading the pack were the dashing and ceaselessly *tres charmant* general managers of the four Philippine properties—**Jarlath Lynch** of Makati Shangri-La; **John Rice** of Edsa Shangri-La; **Timothy Wright** of Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort and Spa, Cebu; and **Henry Lee** of Traders Hotel Manila.

Also gracing the tournament with his above par golf swings was another dahling suave personality, **Tom Zita**, hotshot chair of Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts Philippines. And last, but undeniably not the least, *palanggas*, was the lady with the four B's and working socialite **Peggy Angeles**, vice president of sales and marketing of Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts for non-China properties.

After a power breakfast, they all zoomed away to their respective holes. Hitting the ball was good-looking **Lito German**, the secret weapon of BMW; Mr. Charmer **Warner Manning** of the extremely popular HSBC; **Jun Engracia Jr.** of our very own INQUIRER, natch!; **Henry Dayton** of Citibank; **Tony Imperial** from Bristol Myers Squibb; **Vince Formoso** of Kuok Philippine Properties Inc.; **Jesus Romero** of Innove; and **Edward Tiu**, top man of Paramount Vinyl.

Après hitting the ball and lots of them missing the hole—ooops—the golfer sat down for lunch. Ms Health Buff herself, **Dyan Castillejo-Garcia** of "Sports Unlimited," and the perpetually energetic, everyone's *palangga*, **Neil Rumbaoa**, formerly of Shangri-La's Mactan in Cebu and now with Edsa Shangri-La, were hosts of the afternoon's program where major awards and tons of raffle items were given out, *palanggas*.

INDREN Naidoo of PruLife with Beth See of Omega and Tom Zita, chair of Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts Philippines

LUCKY raffle winner Jose Bayani Basilla of LR Imperial with Peggy Angeles of Shangri-La

LIN Kau Pong of BASF Philippines receives the award from Makati Shangri-La GM Jarlath Lynch.

JOSEPH Nuyda of Siemens receives his trophy from John Rice, Edsa Shangri-La GM.

Lush-cious

Whenever *moi* think of any British product that epitomizes elegance and high-brow, I think of Lush, that haven for beauty and well-being that recently celebrated 10 years of concocting dreamy scents and pampering products.

Joining Lush's big day were September birthday celebrators, *palanggas*, like traffic-stopper extraordinaire **Tessa Prieto-Valdes**; "it" boy and model **Rich Herrera**; singer and actress **Maoui David**; always with a beautiful smile **Catherine Yap**; comedian **Ketchup Eusebio**; and beauty **Vicky Tensuan**.

The day was another first for Lush, as they whipped up a divine selection of skincare products especially for the occasion—the butter creams and shower jellies.

Lush is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. They have boutiques in Glorietta 3, Power Plant Mall, Shangri-La Mall and Greenbelt 3. Let's get lush-cious *palanggas*.

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Benefit dinner-dance Nov. 4

THE PHILIPPINE TUBERCULOSIS Society Inc. (PTSI) will hold a benefit dinner-dance Nov. 4 at the main lounge of the Manila Polo Club.

The event is the organization's main anti-TB fund raising event for 2005.

A non-profit charitable organization, PTSI has been on the forefront in the fight to prevent the spread of tuberculosis in the Philippines,

PTSI is headed by Zeneida Quezon Avanceña. Lally Laurel-Trinidad is chair of this year's Anti-TB Fund Campaign and Concepcion "Nonie" Basilio is chair of the fundraising event. Call 7813747 or 7813757.

Soy milk now in different flavors

FRUIT MAGIC, AN INNOVATIVE health beverage company, introduces a new alternative to cow's milk—soy milk.

The product is aimed at people who worry about raising their cholesterol levels by drinking milk and those who are lactose-intolerant, a condition many Filipinos have. Lactose intolerance resulting from the lack of an enzyme that properly processes animal milk in the body can lead to, among other things, diarrhea.

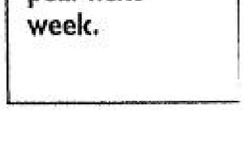
Alan Escalona, CEO of Fruit Magic, says soybeans have always been known for their health-giving properties and were used in vegetarian diets as an alternative to meat as protein source.

With Soymagic, Fruit Magic has come up with a packaging process that lengthens the shelf-life of soy milk, a problem that limited its market appeal before.

Fruit Magic has also created different flavors like classic, merry melon, strawberry sensation, almond nut, *pandan* passion and Belgian chocolate. Call 3646927 or 3643621, fax 3662934 or visit www.fruitmagic.com.ph

FRUIT Magic's Soymagic

INNER AWARENESS



Jaime T. Licauco

Jaime Licauco's column will appear next week.